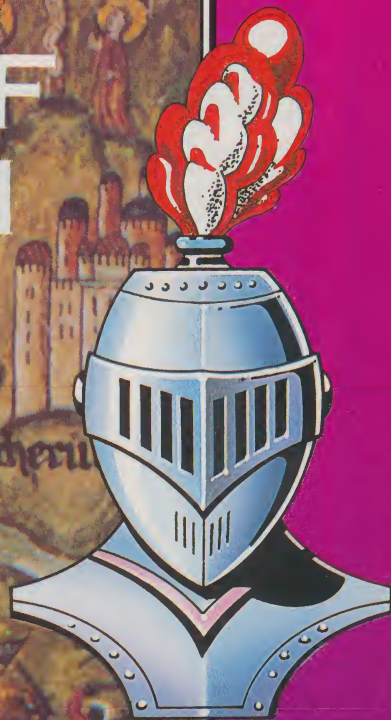
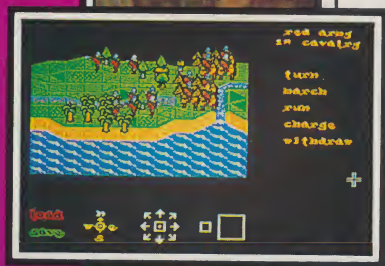


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# Midwinter

It's nearly five years since Mike Singleton launched *Lords of Midnight* upon an unsuspecting games world. The program offered a whole new dimension of games-playing experience by combining strategy with the revolutionary 'landscaping' technique. 250,000 troops, lots of player characters to recruit, and thousands of graphic locations made it a true record-breaker.

Unfortunately none of Mike's later games really lived up to the promise of LOM. Although *Doomdark's Revenge* and other titles were impressive, they lacked the magic combination of simplicity, immediate appeal, and strategic interest that made LOM a winner. The long wait for a true successor to *Lords of Midnight* may now be over.

The scenario for *Midwinter* is simple but compelling. Just as the world gets used to global warming and is casting around for a solution to the problems of the rising sea-levels, along comes a massive meteorite that blasts into the jungles of Burma with the force of a 10000 megaton bomb. Dust and debris are hurled into the atmosphere, cutting off the sun's rays and leading to a rapid cooling of the earth's temperature. And if that wasn't bad enough, a second natural catastrophe (volcanic explosions caused by an earthquake in Central America) compounds the situation. Earth temperatures plummet to -25 degrees and *Midwinter* has set in.

One of the first attractions of the game is the detailed research that has been put into the scenario. It may sound horrific, but every element has been closely vetted by experts at the Climate Research Unit of the University of East Anglia, one of the world's main sources of expertise in this subject. Whichever bit of the scenario you try to knock, the result is a solid chunk of authority and not the hollow ring of fiction. Which makes playing the game far more compelling...

Set on the island of *Midwinter*, the plot is simple but effective. *Midwinter* is a 400-mile long landmass formed by falling sea-levels. Authenticity is the keynote again: the topography of the island was fixed after the game design team checked out Admiralty charts for the Azores area.

In the new Ice Age, *Midwinter* offers salvation to a small group of pioneers who, by establishing heat mines (authenticity again: the designs were taken from similar establishments in Iceland), have created a more hospitable environment. After a generation of successful colonisation, the islanders awake one morning to discover they have lost contact with their colleagues living in the southern-most parts of *Midwinter*. Someone, it seems, is intent on seizing their island sanctuary and, in doing so, condemning them to death from cold and starvation.

## COLD WAR

The scenario of the game from this point on combines strategy and action in a manner very similar to *Lords of Midnight*. Just as in that game you were attempting to halt the advance of *Doomdark's* forces either by destroying them or by penetrating *Doomdark's* stronghold, so in *Midwinter* you must prevent the heat-

2000 troops,  
32 player characters,  
10000 control points...  
Microprose/Rainbird  
prepare to launch Mike  
Singleton's latest  
blockbuster.



The *Midwinter* team: (l/r) Martin Moth, Paul Hibbard, Rob Davies, Peter Jones, Hugh Battersby, and Mike Singleton.

mines from falling into enemy hands, recruit allies from amongst the other islanders, and force either a military or strategic victory. Whatever happens, you have to destroy the enemy camp at the south of the island. If all the heat-mines are captured, you lose...

The similarities to *Lords of Midnight*, however, are soon forgotten when you start playing. Unlike LOM you have a full-scale 3D fractal generated landscape to travel over. Furthermore there are three different ways of travelling (skiing, ice-buggy, or hang-gliding) and each has certain tactical implications in terms of speed, vulnerability, and the ability to access certain parts of the island.

Strategy is more dominant in *Midwinter* too, since the program offers very comprehensive mapping functions that enable you to track enemy movements and generate battle plans on a large scale. Information on the current status of the struggle is therefore easily available at any time.

You have to recruit up to 32 allies in the struggle against the invaders. Here again there have been considerable advances over the early Singleton titles. Each character has a complex profile and history that makes relationships vital in establishing alliances. This all adds to the strategic elements, together with your characters' differing skills in a wide range of areas.

The graphic display of the game is superb. *Midwinter* makes clever use of a limited palette to display a detailed fractal landscape that scrolls very rapidly in all directions. Land contours are all faithfully imple-

## ON YER SNOW BIKE!

There are four principal means of transport in *Midwinter*, each with a corresponding view of the surrounding landscape.



▲ Your ski-goggles...



▲ This is the view from your buggy cabin: buggies are fast and secure, but there are some places they can't reach. Much used by the opposition.

Hang-gliding is THE way to travel, always provided you can find a thermal updraft. Here you're out over the cliffs. Note the 'misty' horizon...





mented, so that if you follow an enemy snow buggy you can see its tail rise and fall as it negotiates the icy slopes. Ski too fast down one hill, and you could come to grief if there's a steep slope up the other side of the valley. Topography plays an essential role in the strategy of the game, its implications ranging from simple ambush techniques to the feasibility of hang-gliding from one clifftop to another. Even the thermals are linked, as in real life, to the terrain below.

Gameplay is quick and easy, driven by a selection of attractive icons that enable you to move between various command modes. Once in control of a character your principle actions are driven either from the movement or decision screens. You can swap characters at any time, wherever they may be, provided you have previously recruited them – you start with just one and must make friends quickly to survive. The game has that classic combination of simplicity and depth that could well make it a winner.

### GAME OF THE YEAR?

Microprose have gone through several major changes recently. After first acquiring the three Telecomsoft labels, and marketing the Incentive games, they even stretched to forming two new labels of their own, Microstyle and Microstatus. After learning a few tough lessons, the company have now settled down and are planning a new Advanced Computer Entertainment strategy...Fewer games, more time and money spent on development, and hopefully what we'll miss in terms of quantity will be made up by quality.

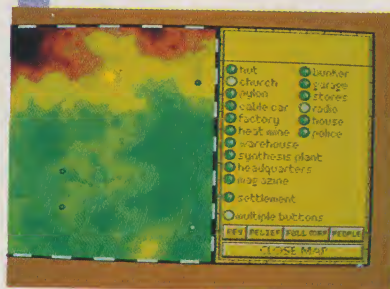
Since releases like M1 Tank Platoon and Gunship were scarcely negligible achievements, it's difficult to see exactly how much more resources Microprose

## MAPPA MUNDI

The map screens in *Midwinter* are especially impressive. The display is built around a 20 million triangle, fractal generated landscape. A button panel enables you select different displays, pinpointing characters, heat mines, and other game elements.



▲ Here you are at full zoom-out, with the 'character current location' option selected.



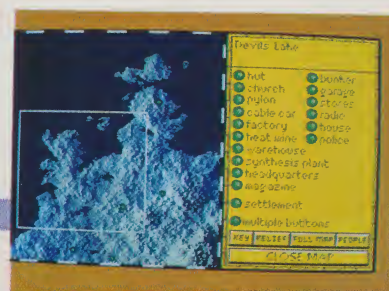
▲ You can zoom in and use buttons to select different features.

## MIDWINTER TECHNO-PORN

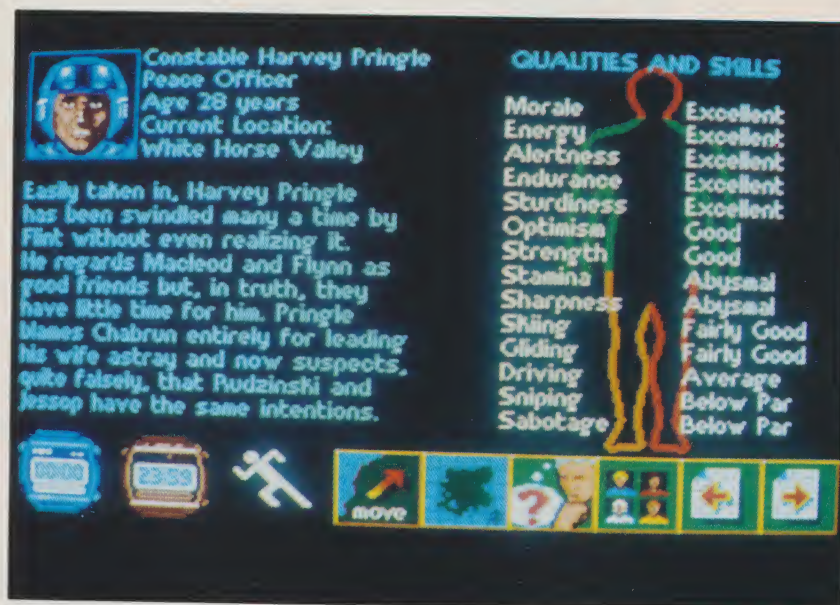
**Map:** dual display ('satellite view' (light-source shading) and topographical)  
10000 control points  
fractal generated, equivalent to 40Mbytes of data.  
20 million triangles of graphic display  
3000 unique place names  
400 miles of playing area at game level

**Characters:** 32 player characters  
14 attributes and skills  
2000 invading troops

**Display:** Up to two mile view  
Up to 400 triangles per frame  
Buildings have up to 30 faces



▲ You can select light-source shading too, useful for planning tactical manoeuvres.



▲ Complex character attribute screens are backed up by comprehensive details in the manual. You have to take careful note of who's who and what their particular likes and dislikes are as these factors affect recruitment and tactics.



▲ This is the view through your sniper-scope. You've got an enemy buggy in your sights. They bob up and down convincingly as they negotiate the terrain.



▲ Down in the 'real' world, some of the features are fairly complex. Here you are outside a village: that's a heat-mine on the left.

can put into a game (Tank, for example, had a manual that weighed in like a coffee table book) and still make a profit. 'We're relying entirely on the quality of the product,' answered marketing director Peter Jones. 'This game is far and away the biggest project we have ever undertaken. It's arguably the largest project ever undertaken for a home computer. We genuinely believe it's the beginning of a whole new generation of computer software.'

Hmmm. We've heard some of this before, we thinks! But however sceptical you may be about the claims, you can't argue with the facts. We've already sat down and delved into the world of Midwinter and we reckon it just might be THE big game of 1990. Naturally we're reserving final judgement until we've carried out more in-depth play-testing: watch out for the definitive ACE verdict next month...



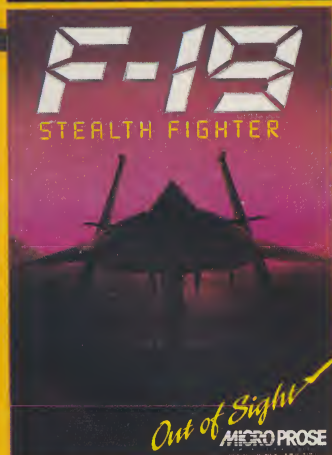
# THE MISSION IS VITAL – THE ODDS ARE AGAINST YOU.

## F15 Strike Eagle II

F15 Strike Eagle II is a whole new concept in computer air warfare. Dogfighting is the name of the game. The air swarms with enemy aircraft. Dice with death as you light your 'burners' and head for the skies. Success depends on making the right moves – fast. Super smooth, non-stop action takes place over 250,000 square miles of authentic terrain. Superb, solid-filled polygon based 3D graphics makes it feel as though you really are in the thick of the action. Hundreds of options, four difficulty levels and a vast amount of missions and scenarios make F15 Strike Eagle II perfect for dogfighting veterans and novices alike.

## F-19 Stealth Fighter

MicroProse's F-19 Stealth Fighter transports you into the real world of Stealth Technology. Placed in charge of one of the USAF's most valuable and secret aircraft, you must carry out missions deemed too dangerous for normal aircraft to accomplish. Amazing three-dimensional graphics add a totally new dimension to F-19 Stealth Fighter as you fly, undetected, at 75 feet around Berlin and strike deep within Communist territory. F-19 is not just a flight simulation – it's an experience!



## Gunship

Gunship has proved itself to be one of the truly great combat flight simulations. Based on the AH-64 Apache, one of the most advanced attack helicopters in the world and developed with the help of real attack helicopter pilots, Gunship lets you loose on a high-performance helicopter that can fly low and slow, hover, sideslip, fly backwards, rotate and go into a full-blooded, 200 knot power dive through some of the hottest combat zones in the world. In the face of adversity, it is a brave heart and sharp mind that matters more than the technology behind the man. The spirit of attack is all...

**MICRO PROSE**  
SIMULATION • SOFTWARE

MicroProse, Unit 1, Hampton Road Industrial Estate, Tetbury, Glos, GL8 8DA. *Stein*



# WHAT'S THE SCORE?

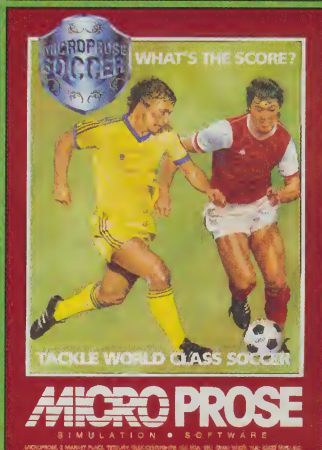
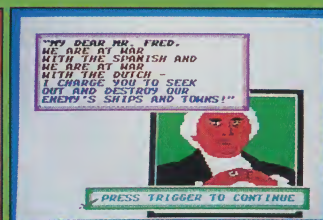
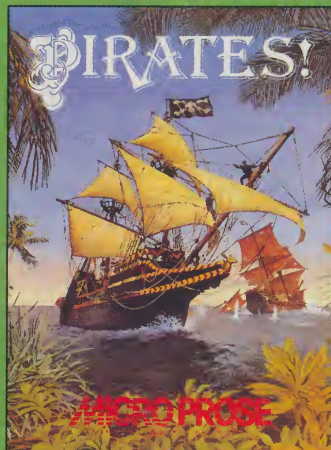
MicroProse's action games feature a depth of realism, excitement and strategy rarely seen before in computer entertainment.

## TWO SCORE GOLD PIECES

Pirates, played by over a quarter of a million square miles, offers unparalleled gameplay and adventure on the high seas;

## SCORE TO SETTLE

Airborne Ranger's fast-paced action challenges your skills and reflexes over a dozen missions deep behind enemy lines.



## WHAT'S THE SCORE?

Soccer was the world's first true football simulation – from indoor league to World Cup Final, it's just like the real thing;



**MICRO PROSE**  
SIMULATION • SOFTWARE

MicroProse, Unit 1, Hampton Road Industrial Estate, Tetbury, Glos, GL8 8DA.



# NO MERCY-NO SURRENDER

A NEW 3D DUO FROM LOGOTRON ENTERTAINMENT

## BAD COMPANY...

**Y**ou've fallen into Bad Company. In this place there are no good guys, just you, your sidekick and wave upon wave of insectoid enemies who have just one thing in mind - the total destruction of every human they set their nasty little bug eyes on. No quarter is asked and none is given, you know what to do - if it's alien, blast it!

Bad Company is programming legend Steve Bak's latest and greatest masterwork with scrolling of vanishing point perspective surfaces, the latest superfast 3D sprite techniques and featuring:

- Simultaneous two-player option
- Unique choice of weaponry, with fire power boosters
- Choice of eight different combat heroes
- Uncountable waves of sickening insectoid attack

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ATARI ST SCREEN SHOT



ATARI ST SCREEN SHOT

## STAR-BLAZE...

**S**tarBlaze is pure solid vector 3D Shoot 'em Up from the programmers that brought you 16 bit Elite! To qualify as a Tamsinian warrior in an intergalactic war of unparalleled ferocity, you must prove your prowess by taking on scores of fiendish alien attack waves and live to tell the tale. How will you do it? With quick reactions and the fastest trigger finger on the planet!

StarBlaze is a game which draws upon the strongest features of the classic arcade titles to introduce a wholly original style of game to the arcade genre, featuring:

- Over a hundred different attack patterns
- Action-packed gameplay in stunning solid 3D
- Five colourful backdrops (forget boring starfields)
- Shield, smart bomb and extra power pickups

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# ACE NEW WORLDS

PAT WINSTANLEY CHECKS OUT THE LATEST FANTASY SOFTWARE

## KEEF THE THIEF



Every adventurer worth his or her salt makes good use of the TAKE or GET command – but *Keef the Thief* puts a rather different slant on this innocuous pastime. Rather than allow you to wander round the world blithely looting shops and houses with the owners simply turning a blind eye, the game takes a rather more realistic view of theft. Get caught TAKEing anything in the city of Tel Mercon and it's curtains...

You take the title role, in permanent exile from your home town for persistent anti-social behaviour. Your new hunting ground is the Tri-City area and the city of Tel Mercon in particular, where once the evil God-King Telloc held sway. Here, rich pickings are on offer for the successful thief, but Keef has much to learn in order to survive, let alone become the new God-King which is your ultimate objective. Since rumour has it that the all-powerful Telloc – banished by peasant revolt – is still alive somewhere in the land, it's questionable whether this objective is entirely level-headed.

Starting in the jungle near the city, your first necessity is to equip yourself with weapons and armour to give you a fighting chance of survival. Unfortunately such items are expensive so you'll either have to steal them from under the nose of the smith or look around for valuables which are less well guarded elsewhere.

The streets of Tel Mercon contain some pretty wealthy households who often leave valuables lying in full view and apparently unguarded. However some citizens are rather less trusting than their fellows and use a variety of subtle traps to protect their goods from the likes of you. Armed guards on patrol are a further hazard, so you might try your luck in the jungle instead, where the pickings are not so

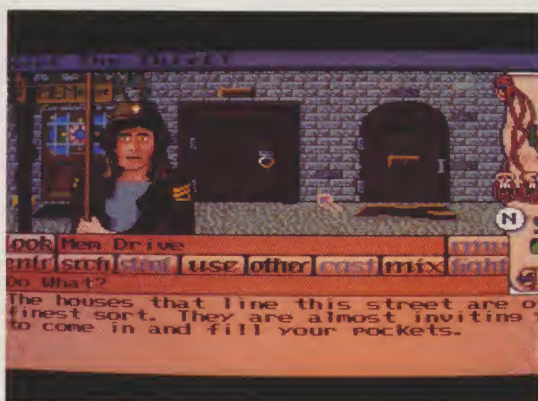
rich but the monsters and outlaws there generally carry some personal wealth, and even, occasionally, useful items of weaponry and armour.

The screen display is divided into several sections. The top half shows either a still graphic of your location, a 3D representation of the combat area, your spell mixing cloth and ingredients, and a direction indicator.

During combat an overhead view of the combat area is shown as a small scale map supported by a radar like display of your direction of view. Below this is a long narrow panel in which any trees or monsters are shown in 3D perspective.

Below the main display is the heart of the control system. A set of boxes show currently available command words. Clicking on these either implements the command or calls up a further sub-menu. The system is very easy to use and quick to learn.

In addition to icons, many housekeeping functions are available on the menu bar including options to reduce the numbers and nasti-



ness of random monster encounters – very useful while finding your feet. Several status displays are also available from the menus. Your abilities in stealing and disarming traps are shown as both percentages and partially filled bars as are general attributes such as strength, hit points and magic points. You can also monitor current levels of sleepiness, hunger and drunkenness. All the displays are clear and easy to read and instantly accessible at any time.

All good fantasy worlds cater for magic and this is no exception. Spells are created by

It's a steal!  
**ELECTRONIC ARTS**  
have come up with a  
novel adventure,  
featuring RPG influ-  
ences, a menu-  
driven operating  
system, and a sense  
of humour.

mixing ingredients on your spell cloth and include such gems as Bandus Aidus for healing and Flickus Bickus for light. To mix spells you need to own the appropriate spellbook of which there are several to find, then decipher the cryptic clues given to decide which reagents are needed. While many common reagents are available at the herb shop, more exotic numbers can involve a long and dangerous trek to acquire.

Combat takes place in real time and requires both tactics and fast reactions at times. Both ranged and close quarter weapons can be used as may some spells if already prepared. But be warned, once in combat the battle is to the death, usually yours, so save often as ambushes are frequent.

*Keef the Thief* is a well crafted RPG which should offer hours of exploration and discovery. The whole game is shot through with humour, often in the form of insults and put-downs, which help to set and maintain a very enjoyable atmosphere. Its style is a nicely welded combination of traditional adventure and character building with plenty of flexibility to explore and try out ideas.

### LANDSCAPE .....80

Clear, colourful graphics, somewhat spoilt by inconsistent movement techniques. Dungeons are rather sparsely drawn and not up to the standard of other locations.

### ENCOUNTERS.....75

Lots of non-hostile characters against whom you can pit your wits and skill, although conversation is limited to set responses.

### CHALLENGE.....85

While not too difficult to play, the sheer range of options to be considered simply to survive will provide hours of enjoyable play.

### SYSTEM .....80

Very easy to control, but changes of movement style

## ACE RATING 850

*Keef The Thief* offers a fresh and original approach to the genre. Likely to appeal to both RPG and text/graphic addicts it provides a lasting challenge for experienced and novice players alike – and it's hilarious!



# MYSTERY OF THE MUMMY

A quick glimpse at a new detective-style graphic adventure from RAINBOW ARTS. In the style of some of the recent French mysteries (*Mortville Manor*, for example) you explore Hamburg in a search for a missing mummy...

**T**he year is 1912, the place Hamburg in this new adventure from Rainbow Arts. Programmed by Time Warp, the game casts you as a lawyer who, together with his driver/companion Wilhelm, is approached by local resident Rudolf Rabensberg.

It seems a mummy belonging to Mr Rabensberg's father was stolen from an exhibition several years ago and never recovered. Now news has reached his son that an important African mummy is to be put up for auction. Your task is to discover whether the two mummies are in fact one and the same. As a typical jetsetter of the era, you are due in Munich on Thursday and today is Sunday – your time is therefore limited.

The screen display is divided into sections which show a clock with the current time, a short text description of your location and conversations with other people, a set of icons for



controlling the game, a picture of your location and four bars showing your level of money, hunger, thirst and tiredness. Input is a mixture of mouse/icon and typing (addresses, names etc).

either on foot or by car.

Since I haven't got very far into the game yet I'm reluctant to give this one the benefit of a full rating. Stand by for more details next month.

# DRAGONS OF FLAME

US GOLD continue the *Heroes of the Lance* saga but tone down the hack'n'slay elements.

**R**emember *Heroes of the Lance*? Did you manage to recover the Disks of Mishakal from Khisanth the guardian? If so, you'll enjoy this follow-up in the Dragonance series.

Draconian forces have spread out across the face of Krynn with only the Qualinesti elves still holding out. Although the elves will fall the Companions still have a chance to free the slaves of Pax Tharkas and recover the long-lost Wyrmslayer. The Companions must run the gauntlet of swarming Draconian forces to succeed.

Play takes place in the open initially with the party seen from overhead as they move about the countryside. However the Draconian forces are everywhere and battle is joined from the first moments of the game.

As combat becomes imminent the overhead view changes to the more familiar side-on shot as used in *Heroes*. Fighting is a matter of aiming low, middle or high at the enemy or casting ranged weapons such as spears from a safe distance. If you're anything like me you'll find yourself frantically waggling the joystick anywhere just to stay alive! Following combat the press of a key returns the screen to an overhead view.

All your characters are shown in cameo at

the bottom of the screen together with a compass pointer on the left. Accessing commands is achieved by pressing the space bar to bring up the main menu. From here various actions can be selected such as spell casting, changing the marching order, manipulating objects, saving/loading etc. Also available is a command to show a map of the whole area of the quest in case you get lost.

Pax Tharkas is made up of several levels containing a variety of secret doors and traps and is very similar to *Heroes* visually with your character shown side-on against the background scenery of walls, doors, passages etc.

The display's an improvement however. Bright primary colours make identifying objects and characters much easier and quicker which in turn makes the game more friendly than its predecessor.

While *Heroes of the Lance* had too much of the hack & slay and too few strategic elements for my liking, *Dragons of Flame* seems to have a far better balance, therefore appealing to a wider range of adventure tastes. Although basically an arcade adventure, the game contains enough puzzle elements to satisfy most followers of the fantasy genre.



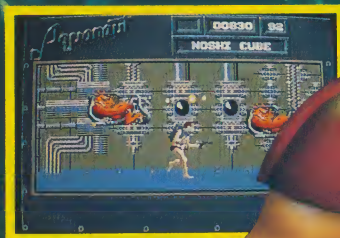
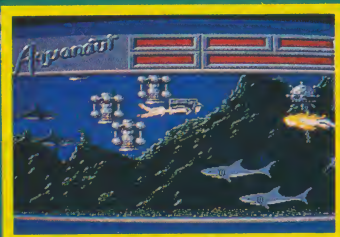
Colours in *Dragons* are much less muddy than they were in *Heroes* and easier on the eye to boot.



# THE DEEPEST GAME EVER...

# Aquanaut

The company that produced "The Kristal" bring you an inter-active arcade adventure written in the spirit of 1940's cinema heroes, taking place deep under The Ocean in a maze of underwater caverns and then in the Fabled City of Atlantis. Surmount the perils of the deep with a clever strategy and slick joystick control ... the underwater world could be yours.



Screen shots from various systems.



Mermaid in Britain

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OF "THE  
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HUNT for hidden clues



# POWER UP

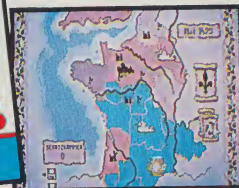
# POWER UP YOUR 16 BIT

WITH THIS MACHINE DEDICATED  
ORIGINAL SOFTWARE  
FOR ONLY £9.99



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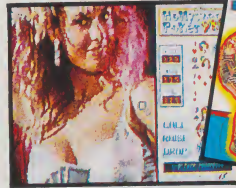
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Screen shots from various formats.

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Available on: Atari ST • Amiga



Screen shots from various formats.



## JOURNEY TO THE CENTRE OF THE EARTH



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Arts**





# TRICKS 'N' TACTICS

FEELING LOST? TNT GETS THOSE TRICKY GAMES MAPPED OUT

## TV Sports Football

If you enjoyed this game as much as I did then by now you are probably at the stage where you want to improve your playing skills. These 16 gems from M.Dhooper of Belvedere, Kent might prove helpful in doing so.

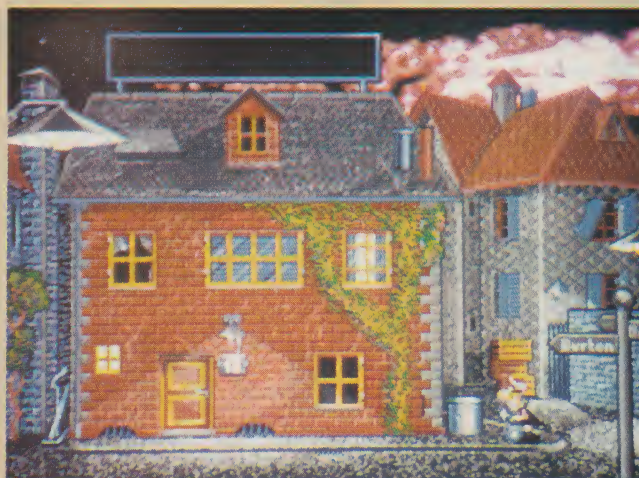
1. Fake Punts are the best to use.
2. Don't run with your quarter-back.
3. Always pass the ball at the earliest opportunity.
4. Passing to the left is generally better than to the right.
5. Make sure the ball is thrown in front of the half-back.
6. Don't make long passes as there is probably a member of the opposition further up the pitch.
7. Run along the edges.
8. Try not to pass into the end zone. Try to run the ball in.
9. Run straight ahead and go diagonally when there is someone running in front or behinds you.
10. If you don't do well on your first three downs go for a field goal instead of making a risky throw/run.
11. Field goals have more chance of going in from the 40 yard line.
12. Never go for the punt.
13. In defence use blitzes as often as possible.
14. Use Time-Outs only when you are losing.
15. Use the 4-3 alignment rather than the 6-1.
16. Use the pro-set formation rather than the 'I' formation and the shotgun.

## The Darker Side of Freespace

Liam Hughes of Romford, Essex has strolled through *Dark Side* from Incentive, and here gives us the benefit of his insight into the game.

Start by destroying ECDs 1-5. Now go to the Regulus. Go into the building that is in front of you when you are facing North. In here you will see fuel rods and shield blocks. Collect all of these.

Now destroy ECDs 5-9. This will give you quite a lot of time. Now go through either Umbriel or Procyon. Walk by the prison sensor until you get thrown in prison.



## More C64 Pokes Galore

Never let it be said that ACE ignores C64 owners. After a whole TNT column to themselves in November, C64 fanatics can celebrate the new year with yet more gems. This time they're from Ace hacker and cracker Koen Smedts, Leuven, Belgium. Thanks a million Koen.

### XIS (unlimited lives)

POKE 16956,173  
SYS 28672 (to restart)

### LEONARDO (passwords)

Moonwalk  
Football  
Blitter

### GEMINI WING

(infinite lives)  
POKE 4518,173  
SYS 4096 (to restart)

### (passwords)

Mr.Wimpy (level 2)  
Classics (level 3)  
Whizzkid (level 4)  
Gunshot (level 5)  
Doodguys (level 6)  
D.Gibson (level 7)



### MR. HELI (passwords)

CAAHIBEAMJJJJCBKBT  
(LEVEL 2)  
DAAJDFIAAMJJJJDBKWC  
(LEVEL 3)

It's simple for Leonardo to do a little Moonwalking, with ACE's recipe for an easy game

### FIRST STRIKE

(infinite lives)  
POKE 38316,173  
SYS 2051 (to restart)

### RICK DANGEROUS

POKE 2793,173 (infinite lives)  
POKE 11193,173 (infinite dynamite)  
POKE 10886,173 (infinite bullets)  
SYS 24480 (to restart)



### KING OF THE BEACH

#### (passwords)

Sideout (level 2, Chicago)  
Gekko (level 3, Hawaii)  
Topflite (level 4, Rio)  
Sundevil (level 5, Sidney)

#### (Try these for other fx)

Logic on  
Logic off  
Cheat on  
Cheat off  
Eat me  
Drink me

#### (Basic tips)

\*always play with sinjohn  
\*smash after the reception  
\*when playing on the left side, set up in the upper corner  
\*on the right side set up in the lower corner  
\*play it a lot!  
\*look at all the girls after 3 rounds!

When inside collect the Telepod Cristal, then get out. You do this by shooting into the boxes, you will either be giving up fuel or shield. Soon the door will open. When you have exited the prison you will be in the tunnels. When you have got out of the tunnels, go and destroy ECDs 9-15.

Now go to Sirius, enter the building in the West. You do this by shooting the block above the door about 10-15 times. When inside Jet-Pac up to the top, here you will see two fuel rods, and two shield blocks, and a Telepod Cristal.

From here go to Iapetus, get into the building East of the river. To do this you have to Jet-Pac over a force field, then get into the building. In it you will find four tele-transporters. Now go and destroy ECDs 15-20. Go to Tethys and collect the four fuel rods.

Now you can get the other (3rd) Telepod Cristal. Destroy ECDs 20-24. Go to Psyche and go into the Telepod and shoot the cristal that takes you to Pollux. Here you will find the final Telepod Cristal. Use this to take you to the NEREIOL sector. Take the letter K, then go back to Psyche, and go

through the open gate. Destroy the final ECD and the game is complete.

## CPC Capers

Right, C64 owners have had their turn, now its time for some juicy morsels digestible by Amstrad addicts. These tips, once again, come from Liam Hughes of Romford, Essex.

### ROAD RUNNER - KIXX

On the selection screen type US for infinite lives.

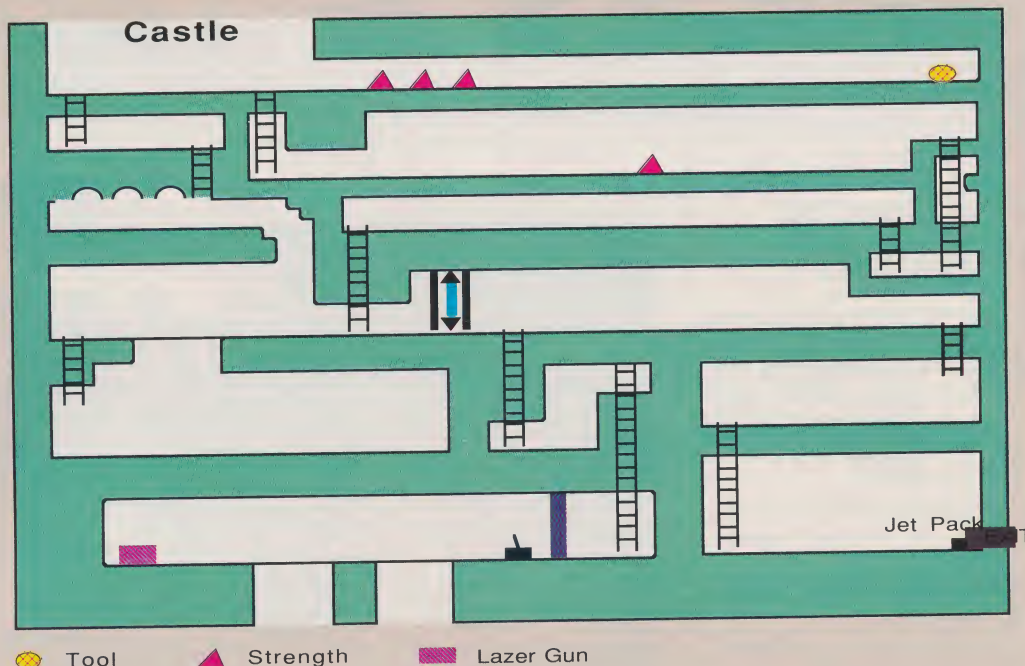
115



Let me tell you — I'm impressed. When I played Psygnosis' very sexy game, *The Shadow of the Beast*, I thought it was extremely difficult. I certainly wasn't expecting so many cheats, tips, and solutions to be sent in this quickly. Obviously there are plenty of ACE readers out there who can beat anything the Software Houses challenge them with.

Anyway, on with the good stuff. The solution below has been compiled from those sent by Mark Bamber of Preston, Lancashire, and Darren Kevin Peter Matthews (phew!) of Southampton in Hampshire. Both also sent maps of the tree level, and Darren also supplied the map for the castle level.

Follow the arrow left at the start. Punch the boulders and the birds, remembering to jump the grabber



# Beastly Business

(careful, it's difficult to see!). When you reach the door in the tree, enter it.

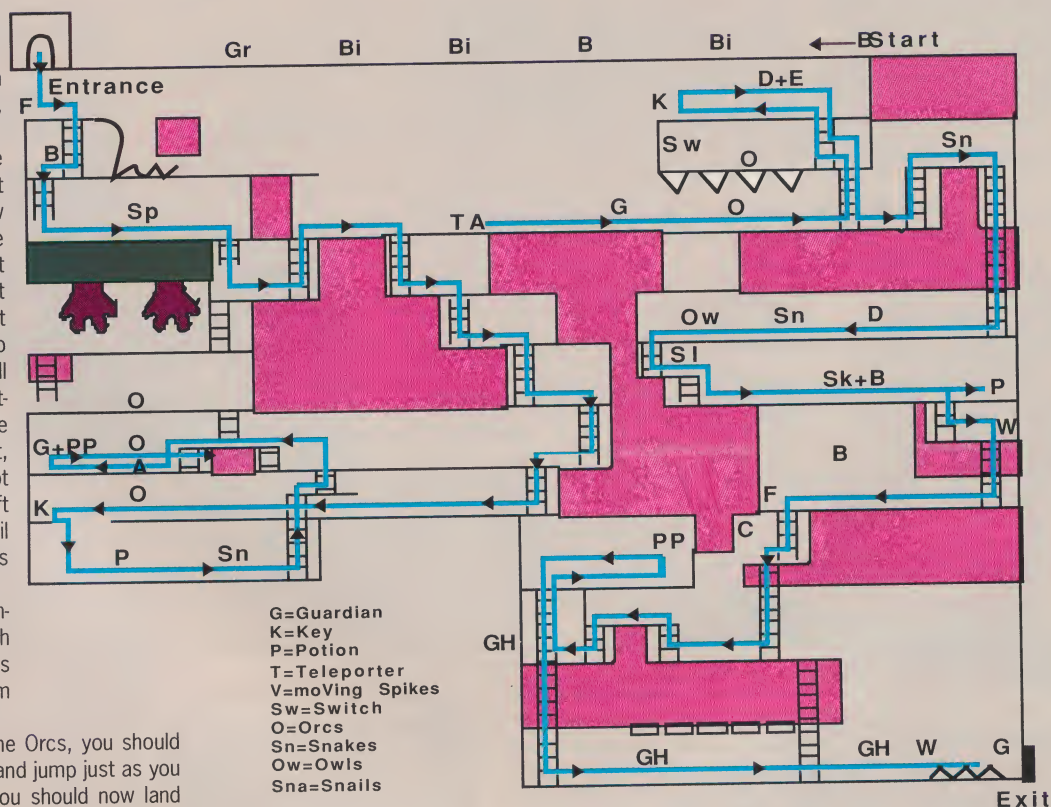
Once you are inside the tree go right, and jump the fireball that appears from behind you. Now descend the ladder and punch the bee when it reaches the lowest point of its flight. Go down the next ladder and run towards the giant insects. Now crouch and keep doing low punches until they are all destroyed. Now go down a platform, then up to the right, continue going right, then down to the right, and down again until you can not go down any further. Now go left and down, then continue left until you reach a point where acid is dripping from above.

Try to avoid the acid, and continue until some orcs approach you. Run towards them, and as they swing their swords, let them have it.

Once you have finished off the Orcs, you should see the end of the platform. Run and jump just as you are about to fall off the edge. You should now land safely on the opposite ledge, from which you can retrieve the key.

Now step off the platform and fall to the lower ledge. Here you can collect a strength potion which will give you full health. Move right, punching the green snakes as you go. Now climb up the ladder and go to the left. Some more purple orcs will come towards you. Use the same method to kill them as you used before.

Run up to the guardian and crouch when it breathes fire. When it stops breathing, stand up, and punch the ball that it holds once. Now crouch again immediately (or you'll get fried). Repeat this process



until the ball breaks. You should now shoot light bolts. Walk right and enter the teleporter. You will appear at the position marked on the map as TA. Go right until you meet the next guardian.

Fire the bolts at him until he dies. Don't let him touch you, or you will be squashed. Run right after you have killed him and kill the orcs as before. Try to avoid the spikes (not easy).

Now go up the ladder and up again. Go across to the left, and when the eyes bounce up, run under them one at a time. Stop in between each one, as a

Gh=Ghosts  
W=Worms  
F=Fireball  
C=Crawler  
A=Acid  
Sp=Spiders  
PP=PowerPunch  
E=Eyes  
W=Flamers  
B=Boulder  
Bi=Bird  
Gr=Grabber  
Ta=Teleporter Appearance  
SI=Slug  
D=Devils  
Sk=Skulls  
B=Bees



red devil will also come to you. Dispatch this with a punch. When you get to the otherside of the platform, get the key and go back across and down. Now go to the right, and kill the snail, then go right and down the ladder. Blue devils should begin to fall from above. Stand in front of the point at which they fall and punch them. Now jump quickly past the snakes (If you have enough energy left it may be easier to run through them all).

You should now come to some owl heads. When the first of these goes up, run for it and continue running through the devil (unavoidable). Go down to the slug and jump it and then fall down. Continue running and kill the bee as before. Now punch the skulls one by one until you reach another potion which you should collect. Go down the ladder and jump the worm. Continue down and then run along and a large bee will fly above and drop fire bombs. Stand in between the bombs and jump the fireball.

Now move down avoiding the crawler. Go left and kill the ghost, and then go up and collect the power punch which you will take damage from while collecting (unless you have previously pulled the lever which shuts off the electric field around



it). Now go down and right and avoid the thrusters. Continue right until you reach the worms. Get as close to each one as possible, and when it goes, run up to the dragon and crouch, then punch like hell. When it dies, quickly run into the well and climb out into daylight.

At ground level go east punching everything until you get to the castle. Before you go inside, collect the light so you can see. Once inside retrieve the tool then make your way down to collect the laser gun. Now disable the field with the tool in order to proceed, killing the monster and collecting the jet pack.

On level two just blast everything. On the final level punch everything, and kill the giant at the end to finish.

OK, you're saying, that makes it easier, but it's still flippin' difficult. I agree, and so does Greg Stone of Chesterfield, Derbyshire. So to help out those players who are still dying after five minutes' play and long to see more of the great graphics in the game, here is his cheat for infinite energy:

When the loading screen with the picture of the beast appears, press and hold down the fire button on the joystick and the left mouse button, until prompted to insert disk two. Now proceed as normal and you will have infinite energy.

## AFTER BURNER - ACTIVISION

Levels 1-10 are easy, so try to gain as many bonus lives as possible for later levels. Concentrate on shooting planes down as missiles are easy to dodge.

Levels 11-18 are slightly more difficult, still try to shoot planes down rather than worrying about dodging missiles.

Levels 19-22 are difficult. You will lose some lives. Stop shooting planes and start dodging the missiles. To do this, move up and down. Don't try and pick up any rhythm as the missiles are not fired in a set sequence. If you try to shoot your forward vision will be obscured and you are more likely to get shot down.

On all levels except 8 and 17 go at maximum speed. Levels 5, 13, and 23 are just landing and refuelling except 23 where you have completed the game.

## OPERATION WOLF - ACTIVISION

Level 1 is simple - just keep your cross-hair in the middle and occasionally move up, and of course down for supplies.

Level 2 is the same as level 1 except you should go up a lot more for the paratroopers. Level 3 is the same as level 1 except that you should not worry about health too much because the villagers will replenish it. Use a grenade when there are too many men.

Level 4 is as level 1 except you do not need to worry about ammo as the ammo factory is your target. Helicopters are a real problem here.

Level 5 is as level 1 except you should shoot permanently at some points.

Level 6 requires you to kill 100 men, so with little time, fire everywhere, and try to use all your grenades over the first half of a level. There are many grenades to pick up.

## Forgotten Worlds

This one comes from Urfan Khan of Coventry, West Midlands, and is a solution to the first three levels.

### Level 1

Collect as many Zennies (currency) as you can. Blast your way through aliens in a straightforward manner. (Don't try and shoot the first lot of ground based aliens). Go to the shop. Buy everything on sale. Once you are out of the shop, try and kill the spider-like rocket aliens (they inflict most damage). When you're near the end of the level, guide your man through the gate to the demi-

god before they close temporarily. Now guide your man to the bottom right-hand corner as fast as possible and the demi-god will die automatically!

### Level 2

Kill the lizards and other aliens with your v-cannon. Buy first aid etc. from shop (don't buy multi-directional fire). To avoid giant snakes, stay as close to the top of the screen as possible. To destroy gun-turrets, stay at the bottom of the screen and shoot across (your v-cannon will protect you from their shots). To kill the dust dragon, position your man directly above the dragon's heart and make him face towards the bottom left hand corner, and keep shooting. The dragon will die (your v-cannon will kill the lizards.)

### Level 3

Kill the aliens in a straightforward manner. Go to the shop. Buy the necessary equipment. (Don't buy laser cannon). When a stair shaped building appears. Guide your man to the bottom right corner, face the top right corner and keep shooting. Once you have reached the top, reposition your man at the bottom of the screen and no shots will touch you.

Once you enter the three gates to the god of war, position your man at the bottom left corner, facing up. The arms of the god will not touch you now.



When you reach the head, move a little to the right and fire up at his shoulder. When it blows up, move to the other side and do the same with the right shoulder until that blows too. Now make your man face to the top left corner and move a little to the left. Now shoot his nose until he dies. All this takes a little practise.

### Level 4

Sorry, but you're on your own for this one!!





# Megatips for a Megablast

Khalid F Howlader has sent in this complete guide to the Bitmap Brother's first rate shoot-em-up, *Xenon II*. No excuse now – get reading and then get zapping.

First a note on joysticks. I have a Zipstick and a quickshot turbo, both of which have excellent autofire options. If your joystick doesn't have this then buy one as soon as it becomes available (shop 1). It really comes in handy when your trigger finger gets sore.

## Xenon II Shop Table

What to buy and what to sell

SHOP #	SELL	BUY
1	(nothing)	Health (and at all subsequent shops)
2	Rear	Doubleshot Sideshot x 2
3	-	-
4	-	Cannon Powerup x 1
5	-	-
6	-	Laser Powerup x 1
7	-	-
8	-	Laser, Powerup Life (if you need it)
9	-	Life (if you need it)

This table shows the items I bought to complete the game, but at shop 8 you may want to try out some new weapons.

*Homing Missiles* – no point in getting these as they are given away free just before the halfway bad-die (level 5)

*Bombs* – very effective, but if you already have sideshots you will have no room to carry them. If you want to try these out then sell side and buy rear.

*Protection* – makes your shield last longer. I prefer a life instead.

*Drone* – quite good, but better when powered up.

*Dive* – useful for getting out of stick situations.

*Laser* – the best weapon when power is 3. Sears through everything in its way.

*Bitmap Staples* – If you want a surprise, this is the thing to get.

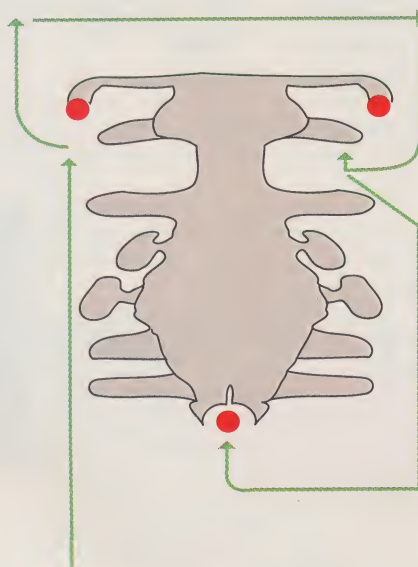
*Mines* – these are effective if you can remember the positions of the waves, as a well laid stream can

obliterate a complete wave.

*Electro Ball* – useful in the rock passage (level 3) for destroying serpents behind you. Sometimes it disappears. In my experience it was usually in a corner of the screen or not on it at all. Bring it back by keeping the fire button down and moving the joystick. If this doesn't work then the ball has expired.

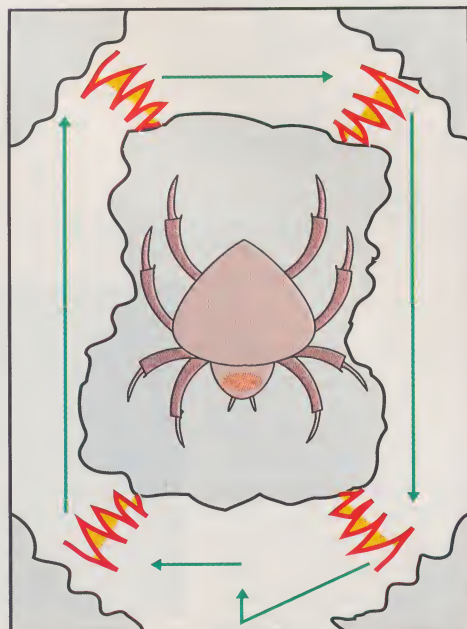
*Flamer* – this isn't really effective with autofire on because the fire button needs to be constantly pressed to give a continuous stream. Limited range.

*Health* – Unless you are less than three quarters full don't get it, except on level 4 where there's no free health.



### Level 2

- Go up and shoot the eye.
- Go along the top.
- Shoot the other eye.
- Go down and shoot the last eye.



### Level 2

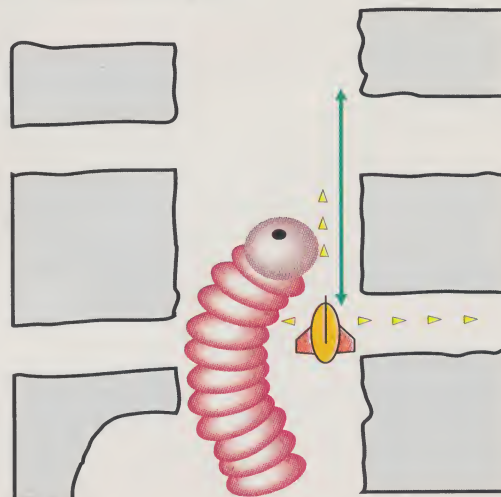
- Circle around the island destroying bridges.

- Make sure that when you are shooting the spider you are as far away as possible in front of it. Otherwise you will be slightly jammed against the island and all the money will go streaming by.

### Level 3

#### Rock Passage

- When gap appears reverse and let rip with side shot



## Guardians

### Level 1 - Shellfish

Shoot it in the eye.

### Level 2 - (see diagrams)

### Level 3 (0.5) - Crab

Shoot its eyes. To avoid it, move in a rough figure of 8 pattern. Watch out for those extendible claws.

### Level 3 (1.0) - Serpent

At this point you should have at least 2 heavy weapons at the sides. Position yourself outside of the bottom-left exit and as he emerges, keep your firepower trained on his head as he moves across. He should then blow up leaving loads of money.

### Level 4 (0.5) - Dragon

As it appears, go right to the side and advance upwards. Your sideshot should finish off those small heads. Then hit the bit at the very end and go down, but don't stay at the bottom. Wait until the dragon's head is in view. Just after he has lunged, go right to the bottom and let him have it where it hurts (no, his head, stupid!)

### Level 4 (1.0) - Chameleon

Just advance up the side and dispose of his eyes. Now push yourself forward next to his feet and you can get the body with the sideshot as well. This saves having to dodge the tongue.

### Level 5 (0.5) - Tank

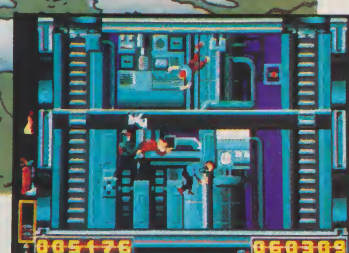
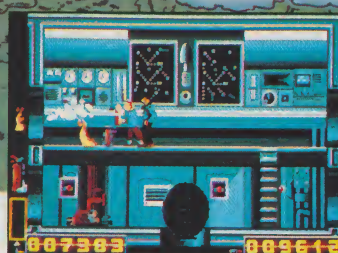
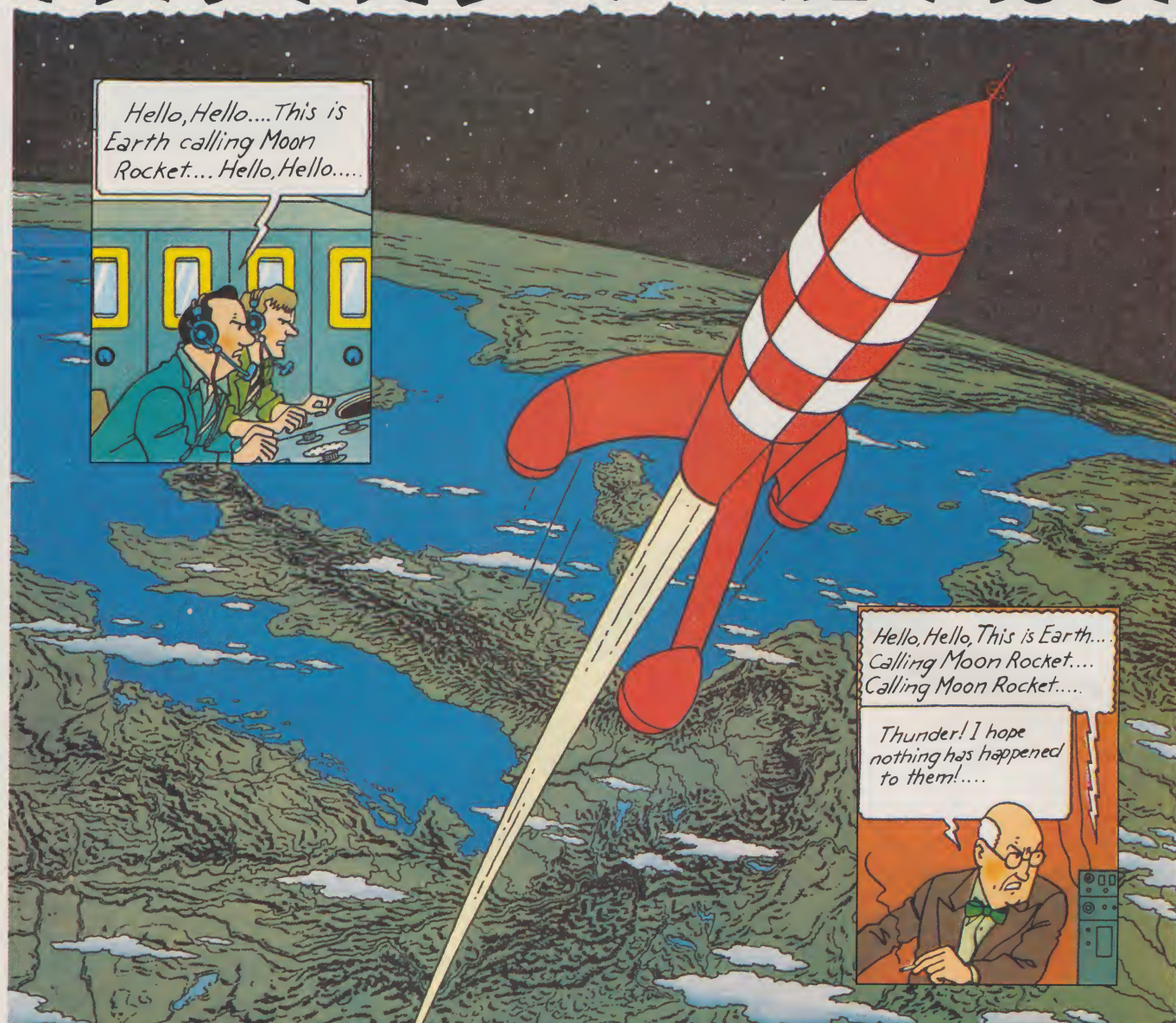
Pick up the homing missile while destroying the turrets. Now position your laser dead centre so you can blast the tank without getting hit by its own laser.

### Level 5 (1.0) - Battlecruiser

If you haven't got a power 3 sideshot then you've got no chance matey. First shoot the engines until they stop. Now polish off both turrets. Advance up the side destroying the turrets. Watch out for little spaceships hitting you from behind. Destroy the lasers and then go down. Pump the ship's rear full of bullets and enjoy the ending.



# TINTIN ON THE MOON



"Hello control station! Here is the moon rocket. Tintin speaking. I have just regained consciousness. Everything seems OK, we are now taking over the controls of the rocket." Aboard the rocket, you will relive with Tintin and his friends the most exciting adventure the world has ever known. The first trip to the Moon!

Will you succeed in piloting the red and white rocket through space and achieve a flawless landing? Will you capture Colonel Boris, the traitor, who wants to make the expedition fail? Will you be able to find the extinguishers to put out the fires, even while floating in zero-gravity (which isn't everybody's idea of fun)? Will you succeed in finding and disarming the bombs and freeing your companions in order to get out of the rocket to make the first step on the Moon? You will discover all this by playing "TINTIN ON THE MOON", the first computer game based on the comic books by Hergé...

Before Armstrong there was Tintin and... may be you!



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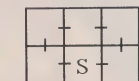


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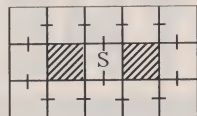


The console crackin' team are back again. Jojo Cicero and Mark Hook of Cardiff, South Glamorgan are back again with more amazing tips - this time we have the maps for rounds 1-9 of Spy vs. Spy on the Sega.

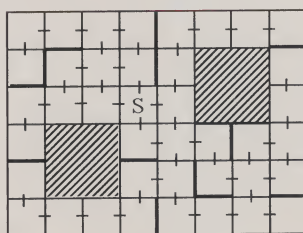
round **1**



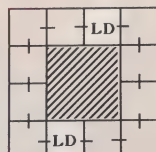
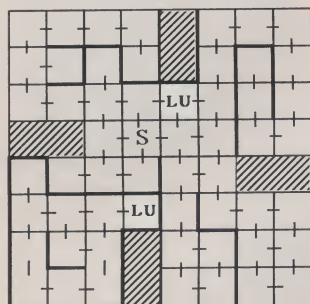
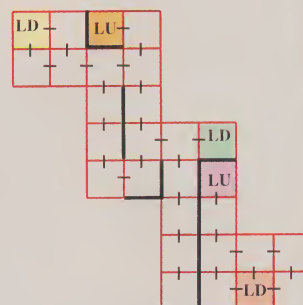
round **2**



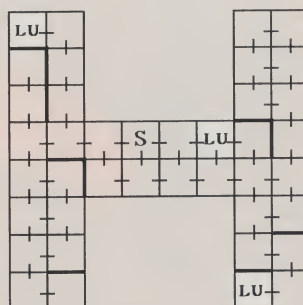
round **3**



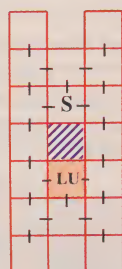
round **9**



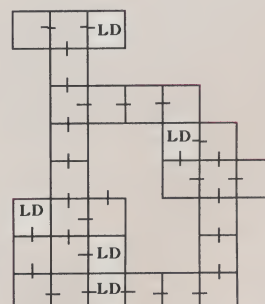
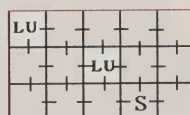
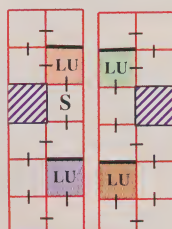
round **4**



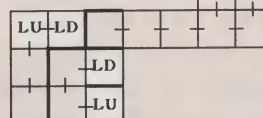
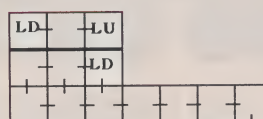
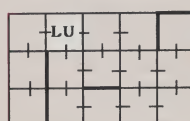
round **5**



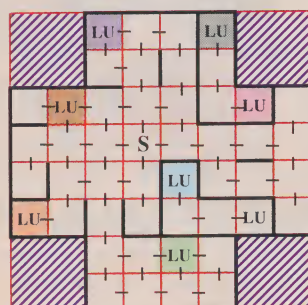
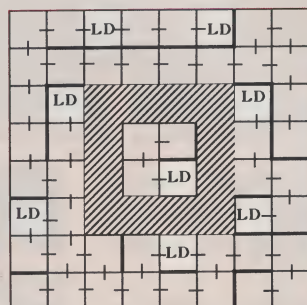
round **6**



round **8**



round **7**



### KEY

- LU Ladder Up
- LD Ladder Down
- DoorConnection
- S Start

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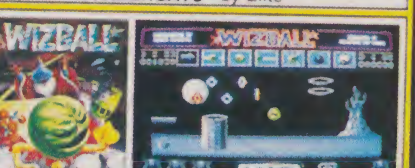
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# BATTLETECHnology

ACE reveals the  
story, specs  
and sensation of  
31st Century  
gaming...



Each cockpit is equipped with a 25" colour monitor, which serves as a front window to the vehicle and displays graphics of the surrounding environment and the ensuing battle. The secondary screen is used for radar and vehicle status. Dual joysticks with trigger buttons, weapon selection displays, throttle control, directional pedals, ceiling message centre, radio controls for communication with team-mates and attendant and other interior battle functions all add to the realism of the battle

Imagine not only playing a computer game but actually experiencing it: that's the underlying ideal behind ESP Corporation's BattleTech Centre – a simulation experience far more advanced than any other system available to the general public and one of the most exciting games prospects to hit the market in years.

Jordan Weisman, designer of BattleTech Centre and founder of ESP Corporation, told ACE: "We have created a whole new entertainment medium – the world's first complete computer simulation experience for play".

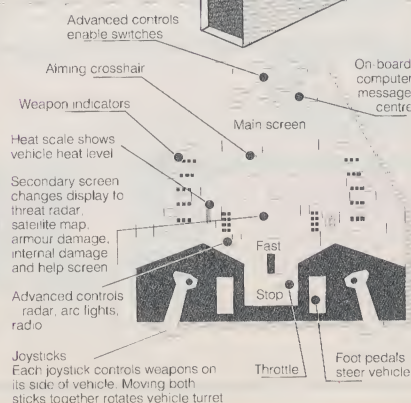
## INTERACTIVE STAR WARS

Weisman, a 29 year-old dyslexic, originally had the concept for BattleTech Centre ten years ago. The central idea behind BattleTech Centre was to bring the movie magic made popular by Star Wars to a place where people could actually participate in the total environment of a fantasy world. So Weisman and friend L. Ross Babcock III formed FASA in 1980, with the hope of raising funds to produce the Environmental Simulation Project – but they were greeted with scepticism from potential investors worried about the high risk factor and costs.

Instead, FASA concentrated on creating immensely popular adventure and role-playing board games such as BattleTech, Renegade Legion and Star Trek. Prompted by this success Weisman decided to revive the BattleTech Centre concept and started FASA's sister company, ESP Corporation – dedicated to interactive entertainment.

BattleTech Centre takes advantage of cheaper microcomputer technologies: "this gives us the speed and graphic power required without having to

## BattleTech cockpit controls





## BattleTech Specs

Each BattleTech Centre cockpit contains 32Mb of RAM and 26 proprietary PC boards, which make up the graphics, sound and cockpit control systems. The computers communicate with the other cockpits via a local area network. The cockpits main screen can display 200 3D objects in real-time, using a maximum of 64000 colours on screen at any one time.

The game's visuals are split between two viewing screens: the primary "out the front window" screen and a secondary screen used for radar and other information. ESP designed the primary screen graphic system differently than most military type simulators, which model the on-screen universe via a set of polygons requiring incredibly fast maths processors to handle the calculations involved. Instead, BattleTech Centre graphics systems use 19000 pre-drawn "arted" images which were originally created on a CAD system and rendered using ray-tracing, shading, source lighting and edge smoothing. The graphics systems also use a fast and versatile geometry engine which performs hardware scaling of the images in real-time and allows 2D transformations such as mirroring, warping, flips and keystoneing.

### Primary screen:

Graphics processor	34010 at 40MHz
Theoretical through-put	400 nanoseconds per pixel
Practical through-put	200 "arted" images in real-time
Screen resolution	320x200
Maximum colours on-screen	64000
Total colour palette	16 million colours
System memory	34.5Mb of RAM, expandable to 130.5Mb
Graphic images in memory	19000
Special geometry engine	Hardware scaling of graphic images and performs 2D transformations.

### Secondary screen:

Game and graphics processor	68010 at 7MHz
Screen resolution	320x200
Colours per screen	16
Total colour palette	4096

### Sound system:

Processor	6809
Digital samplers	ADPCM and PCM format
Channels	20
Watts per channel	63
Memory	420K RAM

The sound system incorporates three sound generation devices, giving it the ability to generate spatially orientated sounds from either straight sampled sounds, sampled sounds with frequency control or FM synthesised sounds.

### Cockpit controls:

- 2 Eight position joysticks, each containing three firing buttons
- 1 Analog throttle
- 2 Analog foot pedals
- 52 Momentary switches
- 8 Momentary rocker switches
- 116 button keypad
- 132 segment LCD bar-graph
- 128 4 segment LED alpha-numeric display

Each cockpit has close to a hundred controls and over a hundred indicator lights.



**As each object is placed on screen, it's assigned a colour palette which consists of 256 colours. Palettes are assigned based on the object type, location and situation. An example of this palette use is distance haze. In the real world, as an object gets farther away it tends to blend into the background - the palette system mimics this perfectly**



**BattleTech Centre uses a new series of Mechs to be introduced to role-players over the next six months. This particular Omni-Mech serves mostly in a fire-support role.**



use a huge multi-million mainframe computer," says Mike Hanson, director of BattleTech Centre system development at Incredible Technologies. Weisman adds, "In the past only governments could afford this sort of thing. ESP has found a way to bring the person on the street the same sophisticated imaging of commercial and military flight simulations used by NASA and the Air Force".

## PLAY THE GAME

The BattleTech Centre is an environmental complex which simulates a fictional universe, the core experience being an eight-player battle. Each player sits in an enclosed cockpit, whose simulator allows each contestant to see a graphic image of the other player's vehicle, their movements and the surrounding terrain. The BattleTech Centre operates in a 5000 square foot location, encompassing a lobby area, two combat information systems, embarkation hall and two launch areas.

The lobby area is decorated as a wardroom of a giant starship with 10-12 video monitors broadcasting fictitious newscasts from the future, cockpit simulator instructions and "God's Eye View" of games in progress. This, coupled with uniformed staff, surrounds players with sensory cues of a science fiction universe. In the Combat Information Centres, a uniformed officer hands players their sheet of orders and

they are allowed to form team strategies, scope the terrain of their mission and obtain information on the universe via a "user friendly" computer. The launch areas are dominated by eight cockpits (each 10 feet by 3.5 feet by 5 feet).

The simulators are connected via computer network to produce a real-time simulation experience in an interactive, 3D environment. The terrain, vehicles and mission change every game, so each time you play there are new challenges. In addition, for the first time, the opponent you face is not a computer, but another player who thinks ahead, learns from their mistakes, and is unpredictable.

Each BattleTech Centre will have two eight-player games going on simultaneously. The Centre can change its fictional environment every 30 minutes. The game software and videos are changed and the result is a new universe and vehicle type to master. The first two environments created for BattleTech Centres are based on FASA's BattleTech and Renegade Legion role-playing games. BattleTech is set in the year 3050, where the masters of the battlefield are huge, manlike BattleMech droids. Renegade Legion is a game of starfighter combat in the year 6000. ESP will create several other environments in the future.

The BattleTech Centre books reservations for teams, or mix and match individuals as they arrive to make up teams for each game sequence. A half-hour experience will be priced on a par with a trip to the cinema or squash-court.

## COMING TO A TOWN NEAR YOU?

ESP plans to develop 150 BattleTech Centres across the United States and Canada, and has a license for distribution in Japan. Each complex will cost approximately \$750000 to build - \$500K for the electronics package and \$100-\$250K construction cost. The first BattleTech Centre was scheduled to open in Chicago before Christmas, but has been delayed until March 1990 due to leasing problems. Weisman enthuses, "sites in Las Vegas and Los Angeles are under negotiation. We're also in-touch with major UK arcade companies and theme-park organisers - we hope to have a deal signed soon..."

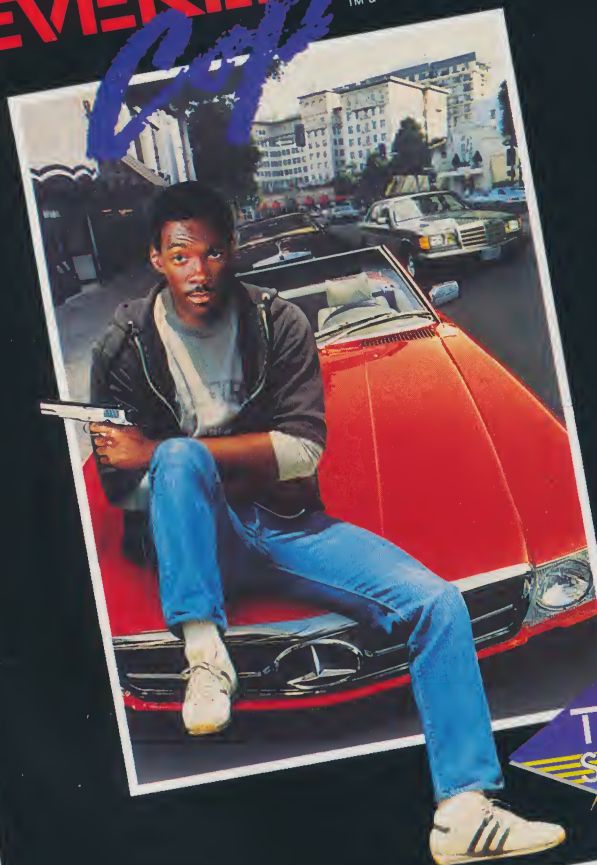


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## BEVERLY HILLS

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# UPDATES

A ROUND UP OF THE LATEST MAJOR CONVERSIONS

## PICTIONARY

The latest versions -  
ST, Spectrum, Amstrad



Pictionary on the ST

Domark; Amiga Version  
reviewed Issue 26; ACE Rating  
790

Having managed to capture the license for the most popular board game of all time (*Trivial Pursuit* — for those who've been living in a cupboard for the last five years), Domark have now turned their attentions to the lat-

est Yuppie board game — *Pictionary*. The idea behind this one is that one member of a team draws a picture and the other players have to guess the word that the picture is intended to convey within a set time limit. Guessing the word correctly allows you to move your counter further round the board.



Pictionary on the Amstrad

### ST VERSION

£24.99dk

The first thing that struck me about this version was how well the drawing utility actually stands up in its own right. All of the functions are particularly easy to access (just a single key press for each), and there are enough of them to produce some quite intricate doodles. The arc tool is particularly useful and powerful. As an added bonus, once you have completed a picture you can save it in Neochrome format (it is then a fairly simple matter to import it into most commercial ST art software).

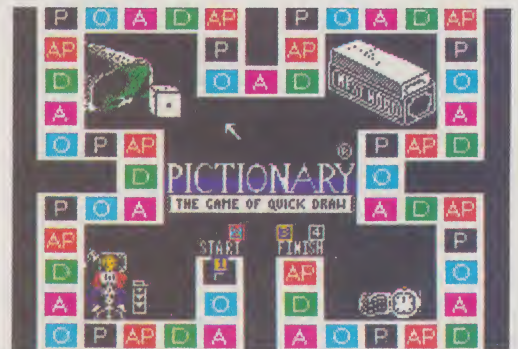
I'm not convinced that paying £25 for *Pictionary* on the ST is preferable to buying the original board game. However, the ST and other versions do have the additional appeal of being able to assign all the picture drawing to the computer (essential if you're playing solo).

● ACE RATING 750

### SPECTRUM VERSION

£19.99dk £14.99cs

The first thing I expected to find on loading up this version was an inferior doodle package, so I was pleasantly surprised to find that this was not the case. All of the functions available are easily accessed with either the pointer or a single key press. The disadvantage of this and other 8-bit versions is the lack of a mouse for drawing. I tried playing with the keyboard controls, and to be quite honest, drawing anything other



Pictionary on the Spectrum

than very simple shapes proved to be a long-winded and painful process. It is still quite fun to play with the computer drawing the piccies, although if you have the cassette version be prepared to wait during the frequent tape loads as the next block of piccies is got into memory.

● ACE RATING 550

### AMSTRAD VERSION

£19.99dk £14.99cs

The presentation here is slightly better than on the Spectrum version, although the sound is still limited to a twangy title tune and the occasional blip when you select a function. There are still the same difficulties with drawing without a mouse, although it is a little easier if you use a joystick. Again, not a bad effort, but both this and the other 8-bit versions are a little overpriced.

● ACE RATING 600





Fiendish Freddy on the ST

## ATARI ST

### FIENDISH FREDDY'S BIG TOP 'O FUN

Mindscape; £29.99; Amiga Version reviewed Issue 24; ACE Rating 775

*Fiendish Freddy* is one of those games that really shows off the capabilities of the Amiga. It had great sound, bold cartoon style graphics, and bags of humour. It was also the sort of game that could well have lost all its appeal once it had been converted to the ST. Happily that is not the case. Everything that made this game

enough to earn enough money to pay off the loan. These are High Diving, Juggling, Trapeze Swinging, Knife Throwing, Tightrope Walking, and Human Cannonball.

Each of the events is quite difficult to master, but matters are made worse by the presence of *Fiendish Freddy* himself — an evil little clown who is determined to sabotage every single event.

The whole thing is a lot of fun to play, and the large humorous sprites should keep you entertained for some time. Shame about the tedious disc swapping though.

ACE RATING 725



Continental Circus on the ST

appealing on the Amiga has been packed into the ST version. Packed is, perhaps, the wrong word to use. The whole thing sprawls over no less than six disks. A fact which is not made any more delightful by the necessity for frequently swapping the disc that is currently in the drive.

The idea behind *Fiendish Freddy* is that the bank are about to foreclose on you and make your circus bankrupt, so unless you can come up with the cash within 24 hours all will be lost. The way you manage this is by performing six circus acts well

### CONTINENTAL CIRCUS

VIRGIN/MASTERTRONIC; £19.99dk; Amiga Version reviewed Issue 26; ACE Rating 875

Virgin's 2D version of Taito's unusual 3D arcade racing game has now made it to the ST. *Continental Circus* was not the most amazing arcade game of 1989 but it did have the virtue of being extremely playable. The Amiga version was a superb conversion from the dedicated machine, and

as far as I can tell the ST version is identical in almost every respect. I say 'almost' because the ST's inferior sound chip has reared its ugly head again and fouled things up for the *Circus* programmers. Actually it's not all that bad — your engine just goes suddenly silent as opposing cars whizz past.

That's a minor quibble though — the game is otherwise excellent. There are some interesting aspects to this game which gives it a slight edge over other similar offerings. If you crash, for instance, your car is damaged but not completely written off, so you still have time to crawl into the pits for a repair. Well worth a look if you're a racing fan.

ACE RATING 850



Battlestix on the PC

## PC

### BALLISTIX

Psyclapse; £24.95dk; Amiga version reviewed Issue 20; ACE Rating 686

Psygnosis are the sort of company who can take an old, simple idea, chuck in some pretty nifty graphics and some amazing sounds, then bring out a game good enough to be mistaken for an arcade original. The idea for this one apparently comes from *Crossfire*, but I doubt if many can remember it, I certainly can't. The idea is to shoot balls at the puck and to knock it into the opposing goal.

You can play against a friend or the computer. You've got an infinite number of balls, but each ball only lasts for a couple of seconds. The screen can sometimes get cluttered up the with an array of balls. The computer doesn't control the other player, but sets a gravity boundary which can pre-

vent the puck from getting into the opposing goal. If you knock in three against the computer (or against your opponent) you can progress to the next level. Hazards line the floor such as magnetic forces and walls which hinder the journey of the puck. There are around 50 pitches in the one player mode and about 80 in the two player. You can adjust the flow of the game by changing parameters like gravity pulls and shooting. There are tokens in the forms of boxes that give you things like exploding balls and letters that spell out "RICOCHET".

The EGA graphics don't stretch to the PC to it's limit, and although the screens that were breathtaking on the ST and Amiga are included, they fail to impress. Sprites and background graphics are pretty to look at but can, as I mentioned before, clutter up the

screen. The sound is a bit irritating — enough to give you a headache. The game doesn't really present any challenge, and is far from addictive. *Ballistix* on the PC is similar to the other 16 bit versions, even down to start-up sequences, but alas, it doesn't quite make the grade.

ACE RATING 589

## UPDATES CRAZY!

Starting in issue 30, we'll be running a new updates section in ACE, covering more machines, more games, and giving more detail.

If you've got any suggestions for the new section, let us know at **ACE Updates, 30-32 Farringdon Lane, London, EC1R 3AU.**



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# ACE GALLERY

ACE READERS PROVE THEIR PIXEL PROWESS...

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**CHRISTIAN CAPSTAFF, Great Yarmouth  
AMSTRAD CPC 464**

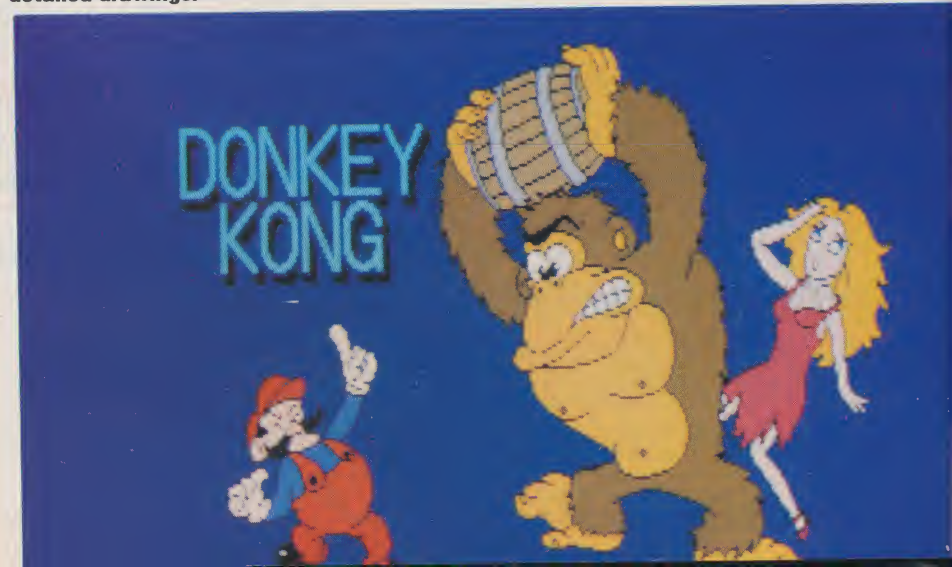
These two pictures just go to show that you don't have to own expensive 16-bit hardware to produce good artwork. Christian drew these pictures of Superman and Roadrunner using OCP's Advanced Art Studio, one of the best art programs available for 8-bit machines.

Both pictures make good use of strong colour and well defined lines to achieve the necessary cartoon-like quality. Notice the good use of shading in the Roadrunner picture to make up for the limited colours available on the CPC.

**ANDREW WALLIS, Brough, North  
Humberside  
ATARI ST**

The Flintstones and Donkey Kong were both initially drawn using Advanced Art Studio, and then finished off with Degas Elite (an excellent ST art package characterised by its ability to run with GDOS and to work in all three screen resolutions).

Andrew has clearly stuck to the principles of cartoon art to produce these pieces. Keep all your lines strong and simple and go for bold, distinctive colours. You will be surprised at the degree of expression, personality and action you can incorporate into a good cartoon without resorting to complex, detailed drawings.



**SEAN RYAN, Waterford, Ireland  
COMMODORE 64**

These two Batman pics are superb examples of the sort of thing you can do even on a machine with low resolution and a limited colour palette. Sean has not been afraid to put shadow to good effect. This is always a good idea because it gives the picture a more dynamic three-dimensional quality than it would otherwise have. Sean has combined this with the use of lighter colours to produce effective highlights.





**ANDREW WALLIS**, Brough, North Humberside  
**ATARI ST**

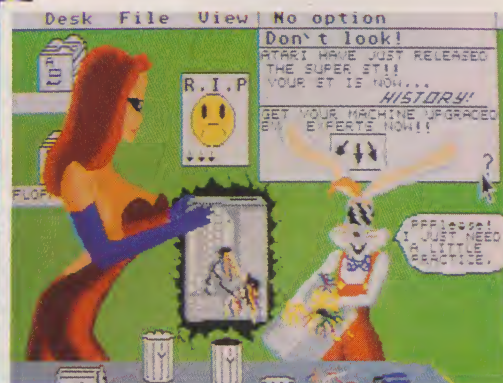
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**PoB**, London  
**ATARI ST**

PoB used Degas Elite to produce the colourful robot picture, and an interesting distortion of the standard ST desktop. He tells us that 'because all of the pictures have light shading in them, I had to use the Degas zoom mode to make sure they were accurate enough and had few or no rough edges. I hope these pictures show that almost anything can be achieved with a palette of only 16 colours.'





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# IN THE PINK

## **NINTENDO COMPO .....145**

Now's your chance to get going with portable games playing. Nintendo are offering you the chance of getting your mitts on the stunning Game Boy pocketable console. Plus – those lovely people are putting up the Nintendo Deluxe NES home system.

## **GAMES YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE .....132**

The ACE updated guide to the games you just have to buy. Check them out, and then look at your collection. Remembe – it's coming up to Christmas and time to give yourself a treat

## **BRUCE LEE VIDS! .....160**

Crash! Pow! Mindscape are giving you the chance to add the COMPLETE set of Bruce Lee videos to your collection. And they're offering 10 readers copies of the great Bruce Lee game.! ...

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Stacks of ads that might just contain the very second hand thing you've been looking for – or the help you need to crack that game that's been bugging you for months.

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Are you in for a big prize? Or even a little one? Find out on our results page.

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Have you got a brain the size of a planet? Of course you have, and of course this month you really are going to win that exclusive prize for eggheads.

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Richard Branson's in a pickle 'cos he can't get his balloon breath. Now in a competition that's Virgin on the ridiculous we're giving you the chance to win the latest Virgin Mastertronic game – but only if you come up with a brill caption.

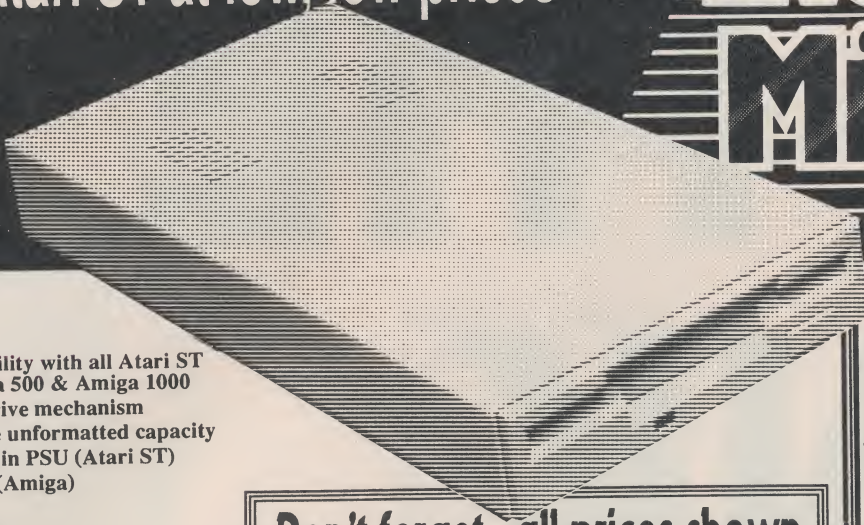
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conversions of the year that should not be missed.

★ **ACE RATED 934**

## RVF

Microstyle, ST £24.99, Amiga £29.99

RVF offers a near endless supply of fast paced bike action as you race your Honda RVF. Attention to detail is paid out all along the route with your rider giving the bike a push start after a crash. An excellent mix of arcade and simulation.

★ **ACE RATED 915**

## SPIDERTRON-IC

Ere International ● Atari ST £19.95dk

Guide your spider-like character around the game area, collecting coloured panels in the correct order. The built-in construction set means you'll be knocking out your own levels till the cows come home.

★ **ACE RATED 903**

## SUMMER GAMES

Epyx/US Gold ● C64 £9.95 cs £14.95dk ● IBM PC £29.95dk

Epyx sporting simulations are of high quality but none have quite captured the playability and style of the original *Summer Games* and its immediate successor, *Summer Games 2*. One to six players can take part in high jump, gymnastics, springboard diving, clay pigeon shooting, swimming, pole vault – and others – with lovely large graphics and smooth animation throughout. Control of your athlete can be complex so practice is recommended.

★ **ACE CLASSIC**

## SUPER SPRINT

Electric Dreams ● C64 £9.99cs £14.99dk Amstrad £9.99cs Spectrum £9.99cs ● Atari ST £19.99dk

One of the better coin-op conversions currently available. With up to three

players all competing at once, the action is fast and furious and it will take a finely-tuned car to complete some of the more tortuous circuits that appear later in the game.

★ **ACE RATED 907**

## THRUST

Firebird ● Spectrum £1.99cs ● C64 £1.99cs ● Amstrad £1.99cs

Terrifyingly sensitive controls and a large helping of real-life physics make this budget title an absolute must. Flying down through the caverns of an enemy-held planet, you have to pick up fuel and destroy hostile gun turrets without crashing into the tunnel walls.

Tough enough as it is, but then you've got to make the return journey with a heavy load slung under your craft. Very mean, very addictive.

★ **ACE CLASSIC**

## URIDIUM

Hewson ● Spectrum £8.95cs ● C64 £9.95cs £12.95dk ● BBC £9.95cs £14.95dk

The piece de resistance of scrolling shoot-em-ups: blast the dreadnought and attacking ships while dodging around any large structures. Great metallic-looking dreadnoughts and the smoothest scrolling you'll ever see put this head and shoulders above the opposition. A game not to be missed, especially now that C64 versions come packaged with the excellent *Paradroid*.

★ **ACE CLASSIC**

## ZARCH / VIRUS

Superior Software ● Archimedes £19.95dk ● Firebird (16 and 8-bit versions) Amiga £19.95dk ● Atari ST £19.95dk ● Some 8-bit versions under development

A solid three dimensional shoot-em-up with such graphic perfection and timelessly addictive gameplay that it became an instant classic. Now the 16-bit versions have arrived and they're just as

# ADVENTURES

After a brief surge of RPG related popularity, the traditional text-entry adventure is rapidly disappearing. But for those of you who savour the powers of the imagination, the verbal twist, and the thrill of encountering other characters, this game genre still has much to recommend it. Here are some of the all-time great computer fantasies...

good as the 32-bit versions.

★ **ACE RATED 981**

## BEYOND ZORK

Infocom/Activision ● C64 £19.99dk ● PC £24.99dk ● Amiga £24.99dk ● Atari ST £24.99dk

Infocom's attempt to muscle in on the role-playing market is a great success. Locate the fabulous Coconut of Quendor in a game that combines the wit and ingenuity of one of the world's most original software companies with state-of-the-art parsing and gameplay. Text-only, but with an on-screen mapping facility.

★ **ACE RATED 902**

## CORRUPTION

Rainbird ● Atari ST £24.95dk ● Amiga £24.95dk ● PC £24.95dk ● Spectrum £15.95dk ● C64 £17.95dk ● Amstrad 6128 £19.95dk

This tale of insider dealings, infidelity and crooked business deals is unlikely to appeal to adventurers who prefer to wander through vast dungeon networks seeking treasure. But for those who are fed up with traditional adventuring, it's like a breath of fresh air. Superb graphics, great atmosphere and a nail-biting plot makes this a terrific game that grips from the start.

★ **ACE RATED 920**

## FISH

Magnetic Scrolls ● PC £24.99dk Amiga £24.99dk

More gameplay than *Corruption*, better game design than *Jinxter*, and not as quirky as *The Pawn*. This is definitely MS's best release since *Guild Of Thieves*. Good stuff indeed.

★ **ACE RATED**

## GUILD OF THIEVES

Rainbird ● C64 £19.95dk ● Spectrum £15.95dk ● Amstrad 6128 £19.95dk ● Amiga £24.95dk ● Atari ST £24.95dk ● PC £24.95dk

One of Britain's newer adventure software houses – Magnetic Scrolls – managed to produce a traditional treasure hunt with superb graphics and some very tricky puzzles. Powerful parser helps to create a convincing game world with humour and imagination.

★ **ACE CLASSIC**

## INGRID'S BACK

Level 9 ● Atari ST £19.95dk

A great follow-up to *Gnome Ranger*. Level 9 have really got to grips with the use of characters in their games and how to program them very effectively.

★ **ACE RATED 920**

## JEWELS OF DARKNESS

Rainbird ● C64 £14.95cs ● Spectrum 128 £14.95cs ● Amstrad £14.95cs ● Firebird ● PC £19.95dk ● Amiga £19.95dk ● Atari ST £19.95dk

Level 9 have put together three of their classic releases, *Colossal Adventure*, *Dungeon Adventure* and *Adventure Quest* in one bundle. The games have been updated with graphics and larger vocabularies and are as close to the original spirit of adventuring as you're likely to find.

★ **ACE CLASSIC**

## LURKING HORROR

Infocom/Mediagenic ● C64 £19.99dk ● ST £24.99 I Amiga £24.99 ● PC £24.99

Infocom's tribute to H.P. Lovecraft and the horror-fantasy genre sends you into a cold sweat as you discover something very nasty lurking beneath your college laboratory. Superb text-only game that defies you to play it after dark...

★ **ACE CLASSIC**

## TIME AND MAGIK

Mandarin ● Spectrum £14.95cs £14.95dk ● C64 £14.95cs £14.95dk ● Amstrad £14.95cs £14.95dk ● Atari ST £19.99dk ● Amiga £19.99dk ● PC £19.99dk

This compilation of the Level 9 games, *Lords Of Time*, *Red Moon* and *The Price Of Magik* have been re-vamped with better parsing, bigger vocabularies and pictures added. Superb value if you don't already own them.

★ **ACE RATED 919**

## ZORK ZERO

Infocom Versions due out about now. Watch this space for price info. Highly enjoyable with a variety of challenges that make for instant addiction. A bit more character interaction would have made this a real humdinger, but even so it remains one of the

# PUZZLES

If you're after a game that will provide you with a real challenge, without necessarily requiring large doses of strategic thinking, then it's a puzzle game you want.

## BONE-CRUNCHER

Superior Software ● C64 £9.95cs £11.95dk ● Amiga £14.95

At first sight this recent release may appear to be nothing more than a boulderdash rip-off. However there are a number of innovative gameplay features which give *Bonecruncher* a feel all of its own. Highly recommended for those who prefer to solve problems rather than shoot them.

★ **ACE RATED 948 – AMIGA**

## BOULDERDASH

Prism Leisure Corporation ● Spectrum £2.99cs ● C64 £2.99cs ● Amstrad £2.99cs

A game that has everything – instant addiction, long-term challenge, fre-

netic excitement as the clock ticks down and extremely tricky puzzles. You must collect jewels hidden in caverns, digging away earth and boulders to get at them. Boulders can drop and cause you serious damage, while the jewels are often hidden by seemingly impenetrable walls. Complex but great fun. *Boulderdash* is a classic you can't afford to miss in its budget incarnation.

★ **ACE CLASSIC**

## DEFLEKTOR

Gremlin/Vortex ● C64 £9.99cs ● Spectrum £7.99cs ● ST £19.95dk

Optics are the order of the day here (not the spirit dispensers) as the player tries to connect a laser beam to a receiver and at the same time destroy a



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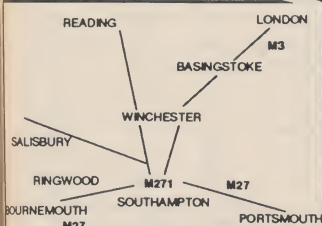
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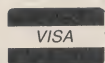
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number of cells that are on screen as well. You'll need to make full use of the mirrors, fibre-optic conduits and polarising and refracting blocks if you're to achieve your aim. Clear the first screen and you'll only have 59 more to do. Fascinating stuff that's horribly addictive.

★ **ACE RATED 906 - ST**

## NEBULUS

Hewson ● C64 £9.99cs  
£14.99 dk ● Atari ST  
£14.99 dk

Guide pogo to the top of eight towers using the spiral of platforms, lifts and ledges that form the route. It's a highly original game that strikes a fine balance between frustration and addiction, added to which is the rotary scroll, thus making it a good-looking, playable winner of a game.

★ **ACE RATED 943 - C64**

## SENTINEL

Firebird ● Spectrum £9.95cs  
● C64 £9.95cs  
£14.95dk ● Amstrad  
£9.95cs £14.95 dk ●  
Atari ST £19.95dk ●  
Amiga £19.99dk

Bizarre and compelling strategy game played over the chequered surface of a planet dominated by the Sentinel. Fundamentally you have to absorb energy while trying to stop the Sentinel from absorbing yours. A clean brain and fast trigger finger are both necessary in this very original and large - 10,000 possible landscapes - game.

★ **ACE RATED 963 - AMIGA**

## SKULL DIGGERY

Nexus ● Atari ST £19.95

Boulderdash clone that completely outdoes the original on this particular machine. Again (see Boulderdash above) you're digging for diamonds in caverns over a hundred different screens - with a time limit for each screen. Skulldiggery scores on playability (easier screens to begin with and a choice of starting point) and its entertaining two-player

option.

★ **ACE RATED 919 - ST SPORE**

Bulldog ● C64 £1.99cs ●  
Amstrad £1.99cs ● Spectrum  
£1.99cs

The winning combination of strategy, frenzied blasting and great graphics make Spore a worthy full-priced release - what a bargain then to be able to pick it up for £1.99!

★ **ACE RATED 919 - C64**

## TETRIS

Mirrorsoft ● Spectrum  
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Atari ST £19.95dk ●  
Amiga £19.99dk ● IBM  
PC £19.99dk

A fascinating geometrical oddity, this Russian puzzler turns the obscure mathematical topic of packing into a cult game. One at a time, shapes fall downwards into a rectangular playing area. Left to their own devices they'll pile up until they reach the top of the screen; your task is to guide them down and pack them tightly so that doesn't happen. Different versions have proved to be rather variable in their arcade aspects, but the brilliantly simple idea behind them means they're well worth a look whatever your machine.

★ **ACE RATED 959 - C64**

## THINK!

Firebird ● C64 £1.99cs ●  
Amstrad £1.99cs ● Spectrum  
£1.99cs

Originally released by Ariolasoft at full price, but now available for a fraction of that from Firebird. It's a horribly addictive game played on a 6x6 grid - either one or two player - in which you attempt to connect four counters, horizontally, vertically or diagonally.

★ **ACE CLASSIC**

## XOR

Logotron ● BBC £9.95cs  
£12.85dk ● Amstrad  
£9.95cs £14.95dk ●  
Spectrum £7.95cs

Extremely tricky maze game involving the player

controlling two shields, and collecting masks through 15 mazes, which increase in complexity as you progress. Also in later stages, fish and chickens lie in wait, often blocking the masks and just waiting

to fall on you and bring your quest to a premature end. Later still, things hot up as bombs, trans-porters and dolls conspire against you. Smooth scrolling, simple graphics, this one requires planning

# SPECIALS

Original works that are simply unclassifiable feature in this section.

## ATF

Digital Integration ● C64  
£8.95cs £12.95dk ●  
Amstrad £8.95cs  
£12.95dk ● Spectrum  
£8.95cs £13.95dk

Excellent combat/flight simulator that's a bit of a change for Digital Integration, the simulation specialist. The emphasis is on solid action, the result being a sure-fire hit.

★ **ACE RATED 956 - SPECTRUM**

## DARK SIDE

Incentive ● C64 £9.95cs  
£14.95dk ● Amstrad  
£9.95cs £14.95dk ●  
Spectrum £9.95cs  
£14.95dk

The second game using the Freescape programming system, which sets more of an arcade challenge. The 3-D graphics are again superb as are the tasks and puzzles.

★ **ACE RATED 915 - AMSTRAD**

## ELITE

Firebird ● C64 £14.95cs  
£17.95dk ● Amstrad  
£12.95cs £14.95dk ●  
Spectrum £14.95cs ●  
BBC £13.95cs £14.95dk  
(available from Superior  
software)

Still the best space trading game, Elite set a standard for other companies to follow. One of the first space games to use vector graphics, it's a shooting and trading effort set across several galaxies, with plenty of variety to the game play. You can trade legal goods in (relatively) safe systems, or run the gauntlet of pirates in the galaxies' danger spots with your hold full of contraband. Either way

there's a nice line in zero-G dogfighting, and as big a task as you'll find anywhere.

★ **ACE CLASSIC**

## INCREDIBLE SHRINKING SPHERE

Electric Dreams ● C64  
£8.99cs £14.99dk ●  
Amstrad £9.99cs  
£14.99dk ● Spectrum  
£9.99cs £14.99dk ● Atari  
ST £19.99dk ● Amiga  
£24.99dk

A manic maze world where mass, size and inertia combine to provide wicked gameplay. Tricky puzzles and endless nasty obstacles will have you rolling around in delight.

★ **ACE RATED 923 - C64**

## M1 TANK PLATOON

Microprose ● PC  
£39.99dk

This is a welcome break from flight-sims that boasts enough detail to keep even the most compulsive nitpicker happy, and at the same time has a breadth of challenge and combat scenarios that should satisfy the most ardent gamer. A winner.

★ **ACE RATED 926**

## MAGNETRON

Firebird ● C64 £8.95cs  
£12.95dk ● Spectrum  
£8.95cs £12.95dk

Puzzles and action Steve Turner style. Save the world by dismantling eight satellites. Steal parts from enemy droids to upgrade your own droid and hopefully make your job a little easier. The ideal game for Quazatron fans looking for a similar, new challenge.

★ **ACE RATED 904 - SPECTRUM**

## QUEDEX

Thalamus ● C64 £9.95cs  
£14.95dk

In this impressively challenging game you must steer a metallic ball through ten different screens of mazes, bonuses and obstacles, all within a set time limit. This simple game concept has a host of added features to make it particularly pleasing: you can carry over unused time to the next screen, for example, and tackle the different screens or 'planes' in any order you wish. Excellent graphics and utterly absorbing play.

★ **ACE RATED 934 - C64**

## SPINDIZZY

Electric Dreams ● C64  
£9.95cs £14.95dk ●  
Spectrum £9.95cs ●  
Amstrad £9.95cs £14.95  
Disk

Tremendous stuff; steer your spinning top over tough obstacles and collect jewels, against a fiendish time limit. The game landscape is a vast system of catwalks, ramps, towers and trampolines surrounded by lethal drops - and NO safety rails. Floor switches activate lifts and bridge traps, but tripping them in the right order can be harder than it looks. A few bad guys and a lot of nice touches, but the explorations the thing.

★ **ACE CLASSIC**

## STARGLIDER II

Rainbird ● Atari ST  
£24.95dk ● Amiga  
£24.99dk

One of the finest examples of a game using vector graphics to their full advantage, gets the solid 3D treatment and comes out looking every bit a winner. You've got a large task to complete and there's plenty of Egron's to destroy, making this combination of blasting and exploration that stands head above the competition.

★ **ACE RATED 927 - ST**

## STAR TREK V

Mindscape ● PC  
£34.99dk ● MAC  
£34.99dk

This is easily the best interpretation of Star Trek yet. The gameplay provides absorbing and challenging hours of fun. A must for Trekkies and an entertaining space strategy/simulator for everyone else.

★ **ACE RATED 930**

## TAU CETI/ ACADEMY

CRL ● C64 £9.95cs  
£14.95dk ● Amstrad  
£9.95cs £14.95dk ●  
Spectrum £9.95cs ● Atari  
ST £19.99dk ● Amiga  
£19.95

Flight simulator/shoot 'em up and its sequel which are both incredibly smooth and well put together. The attention to detail is impeccable as you set off on hair-raising missions as a space cadet. In Academy you get to design your own space skimmer craft as well.

★ **ACE CLASSIC**

## TOTAL ECLIPSE

Incentive ● C64 £9.95cs  
£12.95dk ● Amstrad  
£9.95cs £12.95dk ●  
Spectrum £9.95cs  
£14.95dk

The third game using the Freescape system is a bit of a departure from the first two, but it's still an incredible game. In total eclipse you're battling against time back in the 1930's trying to prevent the moon exploding. For arcade adventurers who love puzzles, the Freescape system is a godsend.

★ **ACE RATED 907 - AMSTRAD**

## WIZBALL

OCEAN ● C64 £8.95cs  
£14.95dk ● Amstrad  
£8.95cs £12.95dk ●  
Spectrum £8.95cs  
£14.95dk

Become Wizball and conquer the 'colour creatures' which are intent on eliminating the spectrum and rendering the landscape grey and drab. One of the most playable games around, despite the simple scenario.

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## RPG

Role-playing games have exerted an enormous influence on modern game-styles. They combine the atmosphere of text adventures with the action of arcade games and the brain exercise of strategy – but their graphical presentation tends to be weaker than other game genres. Gameplay centres around developing characters by raising their experience and skill levels in conflict with other, computer-controlled nasties. All that – and a quest too...

### THE BARD'S TALE II

Electronic Arts, C64  
£16.95, Amiga £24.95dk

The highly successful predecessor to Bards Tale III. BT II has the advantage of being slightly easier to advance. The Amiga version features some very nice sampled monk chants when you enter a temple and excellently coloured graphics. And of course, you can update your favourite characters, their attributes and equipment for use in BT III.

★ ACE RATED 920

### THE BARD'S TALE III

Electronic Arts ● C64  
£14.95dk

The latest *Bard's Tale* game offers a number of refinements over its predecessors (all of which are still well worth taking a good look at). First, the graphics are better animated. Second, there are ranged combat routines which take careful account of the distance between you and your opponents. Finally, the game's large and represents excellent value for money.

★ ACE RATED 920

### BATTLETECH

Infocom, PC £29.95, ST

Battletech features some incredible cartoon sequences, arcade style action, role play and strategy. In short a com-

plete, full game. A brilliant RPG purchase even though it missed out on an Ace rating.

★ ACE RATED 801

### DUNGEON MASTER

Electronic Arts ● C64  
£14.95dk

Quoted as being a "milestone in Advanced Computer Entertainment", *Dungeon Master* offers 14 levels, loads of spells, atmospheric graphics and sound. All going to make *Dungeon Master* one of the best roleplaying adventures to have appeared on any machine.

★ ACE RATED 949

### POOL OF RADIANCE

US GOLD /SSI  
● C64 £14.99dk

SSI were very brave to attempt to capture the complex concept of the AD&D system on a computer, but they managed superbly. An RPG-influenced game that will appeal to not only AD&D fans but to anyone looking for an enthralling game that will keep them playing for months.

★ ACE RATED 921

### ULTIMA V

OriginSystems/Microprose  
● C64 £24.95dk ● PC £29.95 ● ST/Amiga to be announced

Astonishing level of detail in this role-playing

influenced epic. Travel round Britannia trashing the opposition and learning the magical, tactical, and geographical secrets that will enable you to defeat the forces of evil far underground. Superb

romp, great lasting interest, and tough challenges galore.  
★ ACE RATED 928

### WASTELAND

Electronic Arts ● C64  
£14.95dk

Charge around irradiated USA whopping mutant bunnies and biker scum in this role-playing epic. The atmosphere may not be as good as the *Bard's Tale* series of games, but

the extra dimension of strategy leaves the cut, slash and spell scenario of the *BT* series way behind.  
★ ACE RATED 921

## BRAIN GAMES

Fed up with mindless blasting? Want a game that offers you an opponent who's worthy of your skills? Then this is your section...

### CHESS MASTER 2000

Electronic Arts ● C64  
£9.95cs £14.95dk ● Amiga £24.95dk ● Atari ST £24.95dk ● IBM PC £24.95dk

Strongest chess game on the Amiga, with excellent graphics, 2D or 3D viewpoint, 12 levels of difficulty and all the playing options you could wish for. Plus some fairly nifty speech synthesis.

★ ACE CLASSIC

### COLOSSUS CHESS 4

CDS ● C64 £9.95cs £14.95dk ● Amstrad £9.95cs £14.95dk ● Spectrum £9.95

Best bet for 8-bit machine owners, with a choice of 2D or 3D view, umpteen levels of difficulty, and a

myriad options which enable you to play, watch, work out chess problems, etc against a fine computer opponent.

★ ACE CLASSIC

### COLOSSUS MAH JONG

CDS ● C64 £9.99cs £14.99dk ● Amstrad £9.99cs £14.99dk

Rummy-like oriental game of strategy and chance. A tutor program and a short manual make this an easy to use and highly entertaining piece of software for veterans and novices alike..

★ ACE RATED 937 - C64

### INFOGRAMES' BRIDGE

Infogrames ● Amstrad £12.95cs £15.95dk ● MSX £12.95

Graphically the best of all contract bridge simulations, with large playing cards depicted against a suitably green baize background. Plays a good game (for a computer, which after all is a bit short in the imagination and flair department), and features a wide range of options and bidding conventions which you can toggle of according to your style.

★ ACE CLASSIC

### POWERPLAY

Arcana ● C64 £8.95cs £14.95dk ● Amstrad £8.95cs £14.95dk ● Amiga £19.95dk ● Atari ST £19.95dk

If you want to try out your general knowledge, we reckon you'd be better off with this original and challenging combination of

strategy game and quiz than with the admittedly monster selling Trivial Pursuits. Powerplay is graphically very pretty in its setting on Mount Olympus, home of the Gods.

★ ACE RATED 935 - Amiga

### SCRABBLE

Leisure Genius ● C64 £12.95cs £14.95dk ● Amstrad £9.95cs £14.95 ● IBM PC £24.95dk

The hugely popular word game translated very successfully onto the micro. Fast, excellent display, and a suprisingly large vocabulary (even if it does include some strange looking words on some occasions). Good enough to give even strong human opponents a tough game at the higher levels.

## WAR GAMES

Fancy yourself as a master of grand strategy, marshalling hordes of troops and sending them off to do battle on your behalf? Look no further than the ACE war games section...

### ARNHEM

CCS, Spectrum £8.95cs, Amstrad £9.95cs, C64 £9.95cs

One of the oldest quality wargames featured in the section, Arnham was easily the best in the field. It has all the expected atmosphere, five separate scenarios and one of the toughest computer opponents you could ever wait to meet. A thoroughly absorbing wargame which can be classed as one of the old masters.

★ ACE RATED 910

### CONFLICT EUROPE

Mirrorsoft, ST 24.99, Amiga £24.99, PC TBA

The 16 bit progression of Theatre Europe. Lots of extra graphical and sound effects. The computer controlled intelligence was marginally sophisticated but still enough to give a challenging game. The correct balance between strategy and excitement throughout. Great for beginners and intermediate players.

★ ACE RATED 882

### THEATRE EUROPE

PSS, Spectrum £9.95cs, C64 £0.95cs £14.95dk, Amstrad £9.95cs £14.95dk

The perfect game for 8 bit owners who go green with envy when they look at Conflict Europe. Theatre Europe is the forerunner to the excellent 16 bit game. The graphics and overall play are not as sophisticated, but on the whole it still is one heck of a game.

★ ACE RATED 915

### UMS

Rainbird, ST £24.95, PC £24.95, Macintosh £34.95, Amiga £24.95

Probably the greatest war game to date. UMS' unique 3D systems enables the creation of almost any battle in history. As well as a very sophisticated computer opponents yet. On top of this are add on scenarios and a very neat construction kit to keep you going for even longer. An essential purchase

★ ACE RATED 907



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928

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● Amstrad £14.99cs  
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Vector Grafix has spent a long time on this one – and it certainly shows. The game gets the balance just right between convincing simulation and entertaining game. Highly recommended.

★ ACE RATED  
925

## CHUCK YEAGER'S ADVANCED FLIGHT TRAINER

Electronic Arts ● Spectrum  
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Fly a multitude of aircraft from an early bi-plane to the Space Shuttle. It's entertainingly different from your standard flight sim and there's so much in this game that it will take many hours of instructive fun to experience and master all the available options.

★ ACE RATED  
912

## F-16 COMBAT PILOT

Digital Integration ● ST  
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This took nine person years to develop, and you can feel that quality of work when playing it – it's one of the most realistic flight sims on the market. If you are a connoisseur of flight simulators then this is an essential addition to your collection.

★ ACE RATED  
970

## FALCON

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Holobyte/Mirrorsoft ● ST  
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If you really want the terror, exhilaration and

sheer everything-happens-at-once confusion of combat flying, this game delivers. Make no mistake, this game is the real thing. An essential purchase for fast-jet fans.

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945

## FLIGHT SIMULATOR II

Sublogic ● C64  
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● Amiga £49.95dk ● PC  
£49.95dk ● MAC  
£49.95dk

The flight sim that put the genre on to the map. Thoroughly realistic flight sim of a domestic Cessna plane, which is even used by flight schools to train

would be pilots. Can be enhanced by a variety of Scenery Disks.

## ★ ACE CLASSIC INTERCEPTOR

Electronic Arts ● Amiga  
£24.95dk

A low level flight sim with a hi-level of fun. Purists may dispute the label 'simulator' – it certainly wouldn't train you to fly a real life Hornet – but this program combines realism and gameplay far too well for that to matter. If you want seat-of-the-pants air combat action, miraculous graphics and NO six month training period, look no further!

★ ACE RATED

# RACING SIMULATIONS

In You can't have too much of a good thing, even if the excitement is liable to give the old ticker a good going over. Racing sims have really come into their own over the past couple of years – and this is where you find out how to get the best of motor racing action – all from the comfort of that armchair in front of your computer....

## LOMBARD RAC RALLY

Mandarin ● ST ● Amiga  
● PC

Race through many types of terrain, such as mountain or forest, and through many types of weather condition, such as fog or night. The game has a nice atmosphere, and though the variety of gameplay may be a little low, it's still a game you'd be playing for a good while.

## FERRARI FORMULA ONE

Electronic Arts ● ST  
£24.99dk ● Amiga  
£24.99dk ● PC £24.99dk

A bit old this one, but still a game that was way

ahead of its time to start with. Take the wheel of a Formula One Ferrari racer on some of the most famous racecourses in the world. A true thoroughbred.

## R.V.F.

Microstyle ● ST £24.99dk  
● Amiga £24.99dk

The champion in the Best Sprite Based Racing Game stakes, and a superb simulation, this one puts you into the world of performance bike racing on none other than the Honda RVF750. Brilliant graphics, brilliant sound, brilliant game.

## STUNT CAR RACER

Microstyle ● Spectrum

£9.99cs £14.99dk ● C64  
£9.99cs £14.99dk ● ST  
£24.99dk ● Amiga  
£24.99dk ● PC £24.99dk

This places itself in the annals of computer history as being one of the most amazing spectacles to watch, let alone play. The game is first-person perspective, with the outside world made up of really fast smooth filled vectors, and the impression of realism is unbelievable. An amazing experience, and a clear winner. Where can things go from here?

## SUPER HANG ON

Electric Dreams ● Spectrum  
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£9.99cs £14.99dk ●  
Amstrad £9.99cs  
£14.99dk ● ST £24.99dk

● Amiga £24.99dk

Not so much a simulation as a perfect arcade conversion of a brilliant bike racing Sega coin-op. Great game, excellent conversion.

## THE DUEL - TEST DRIVE II

Accolade ● C64 ● ST ●  
Amiga ● PC ● MAC

Accolade tried to right all the Test Drive wrongs with this sequel, and to an extent they succeeded. There's nothing serious about the game. It's just a lot of fun. It doesn't claim to be technically or visually accurate, but why should it?

## THE ARSENAL

This may not be the place to say it, but it's got to be said and there's a wee space here, so why not? Arsenal are finished. This may not matter to you, but here in the ACE office it's an issue of great importance. You see, ACE's ebullient, bullish etc. ad manager, Gary Williams is an Arsenal season ticket holder (let's just pass over the fact that Gary comes from Blackpool). Last May he was cock-a-hoop, as Michael Thomas scored the last minute goal at Anfield that secured the league championship.

Well, eat your heart out Gary Williams. As I write it is a mere 18 hours since Arsenal were soundly beaten by Liverpool at Anfield. It's only a few days since they were hammered 3-1 by lowly Oldham Athletic (and not even George Graham could blame it on the plastic pitch).

Is this the end of Arsenal? Should Gary Williams trade his season ticket at Highbury for a place on the terraces at Boundary Park, famous home of the famous 'Latics? Watch this space....





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PC:  
 Populous and Populous: Promised Lands (Electronic Arts). Highly acclaimed world manipulation game makes it on to the PC; offices everywhere should judder to a halt. Keef the Thief (Electronic Arts). Tongue-in-cheek graphic adventure, originally on Amiga/ST Fireking (Electronic Arts). Stunt Car Racer (Micro Style). Galdregon's Domain (Pandora). Bruce Lee Lives (Mindscape). Amiga:  
 Neuromancer (Electronic Arts). Role playing adventure. Infestation (Psygnosis). Blast away in solid 3D. Hardball II (Accolade). Baseball sim sequel. Atari ST:  
 Infestation (Psygnosis, see above). All formats: Snoopy and the Case of the Lost Blanket (The Edge). Big cartoon licence – join Snoopy in the hunt for Linus's missing blanket. The Search for Sharla (Thalamus). Arcade adventure boasting hundreds of screens, characters, etc. Powerboat USA (Accolade, not CPC or Spectrum). Offshore powerboat simulation with various 'courses' from around the world.

### TUESDAY 12

Independence Day, Kenya

### WEEK'S RELEASES AT A GLANCE

Amiga: Battle of Austerlitz (PSS). Bloodwych Data Disk (Image Works). Starflight (Electronic Arts). Graphic adventure with fantasy/galactic scenario. Hound of Shadow (Electronic Arts). Role playing adventure cum horror yarn. Atari ST:  
 Hound of Shadow (Electronic Arts, see above). Battle of Austerlitz (PSS). Bloodwych Data Disk (Image Works). PC: Gold of the Americas (Electronic Arts). Interphase (Image Works). Arcade adventure with 3D filled vector graphics and bizarre plot. Wolfpack (PSS). Naval simulation set in the North Atlantic in World War II. Much attention lavished on authenticity and graphics. Dungeon Master (FTL). Acclaimed role playing game make sit on the PC. Flight of the Intruder (Spectrum Holobyte). Aerial combat game set during the Linebacker campaign in Vietnam, 1972. Harpoon (PSS). The Cold War lives on in NATO vs Warsaw pact game with you

controlling NATO task force in North Atlantic. C64:

Starflight (Electronic Arts, disk only, see above). Madden Football (Electronic Arts). Disk only, American Football simulation. Daily Double Horse Racing (CDS). Horse racing sim with betting. Converted down from 16-bit machines.

### FRIDAY 22

Shortest day of the year: sun rises at 8.04am, sets at 3.54pm.

### SATURDAY 23

Hanukkah: Jewish festival of lights

Is one of the wrapped shapes under the tree remarkably computer-shaped? Has it got your name on the gift-tag? If so, go out today and buy the following: mains plug, small headed screwdriver with a long handle, four-way electrical socket, blank disks/tapes. This way you won't have to take the plug off the kettle to set up the computer, or place it somewhere utterly inconvenient just so that you're near the double power point, etc.

### SUNDAY 24

Christmas Eve

### WEEK'S RELEASES AT A GLANCE

If any games are released this week it

will be an accident. It's turkey on Monday, reheated turkey leftovers after that, liqueur chocolates and James Bond movies on TV for everyone this week.

### MONDAY 25

Christmas Day

### TUESDAY 26

Boxing Day (Bank Holiday) St Stephen's Day

### THURSDAY 28

National Day, Nepal. Celebrate with some more turkey...

### FRIDAY 29

Feast Day of St Marcellus the Righteous, known as the "sleepless monk", because he decreed that hymns should be sung for 24 hours in his monastery. Any record of what the neighbours thought of this has not survived.

### SUNDAY 31

New Year's Eve and the end of the Eighties. Week's releases at a glance

### JANUARY 1990

New games going into the shops this week are likely to be titles which were intended for pre-Christmas release but didn't make it, due to unprecedented high demand, er, waiting for delivery of manuals, er, felt January offered a better 'window of opportunity' ... just

weren't finished or debugged in time.

### MONDAY 1

New Year's Day (Bank Holiday) Liberation day, Cuba National Day, Haiti Independence Day, Sudan

### TUESDAY 2

Bank Holiday in Scotland Feast Day of St Basil the Great

### THURSDAY 4

Brave the rush to your newsagent: ACE February issue is out today. International Boat show begins. Independence Day, Burma

### FRIDAY 5

Feast Day of St Simeon the Stylite, famous because he spent the last 36 years of his life living on top of a 60ft pillar.

### SATURDAY 6

Epiphany

### WEEK'S RELEASES AT A GLANCE

Amiga: Deluxevideo III (Electronic Arts). Animation package with many enhancements over DVideo II, and complements Deluxepaint III. A hefty £79.99 though. Skate or Die (Electronic Arts). Skateboard simulation converted up from 8-bits. Dragon's Breath (Palace). One to three player strategy trading game developed by team whose members had varying degrees of involvement in

Populous. Space Harrier 2 (Grandslam). Elite did the original, but this is the all-new 1990 version. Wings of Fury (Domark). Aerial combat game licensed from Broderbund. PC:  
 Indianapolis 500 (Electronic Arts). Fast racing sim (yetanother!) – based on Indianapolis 500 race, surprisingly enough. Samurai (Microprose). Atari ST:  
 Skate or Die (Electronic Arts, see above). Starflight (Electronic Arts, see above). The Duel: Test Drive II (Accolade). Lagging behind the other versions, this is the Ferrari F40 vs Porsche 959 episode in Accolade's growing Test Drive series. Also coming out now for ST are the accessory disks: California and European Challenge, Super Cars and Muscle Cars. C64  
 F16 Combat Pilot (Digital Integration). First 8-bit version of one of the 16-bit raves of 1989. Flight'n'fight sim.

### SATURDAY 13

Feast Day of St Hilary of Poitiers, who gave his name to the Hilary Term in universities and courts of law.



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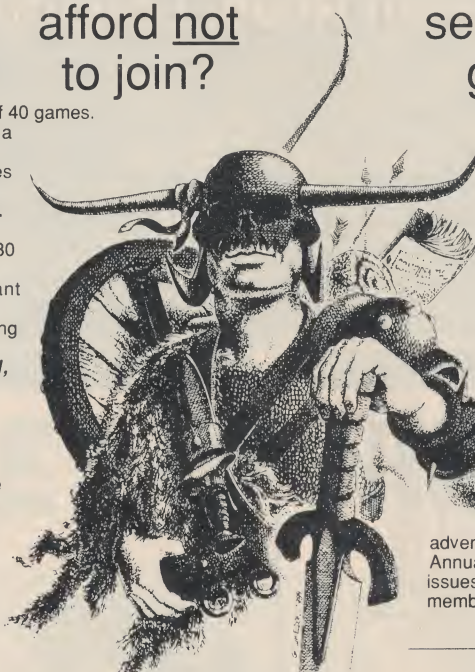
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Title	Spectrum C64		AMS		ST	Amiga
			Cass	Disc		
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Operation Thunderbolt.....	5.99	6.50	6.50	10.50	11.99	14.99
Operation Wolf.....	5.99	6.50	6.50	11.99	14.99	14.99
Paperboy.....	2.99	2.99	N/A	N/A	12.99	12.99
Player Manager.....	6.99	6.99	6.99	10.50	12.99	12.99
Populous.....	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	16.99	16.99
Populous: Promised Lands.....	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7.99	7.99
Power Drift.....	7.99	7.99	11.50	15.99	16.99	16.99
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RAC Lombard Rally.....	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15.99	15.99
Rainbow Island.....	6.99	6.99	6.99	10.50	15.99	15.99
Railway Cross.....	6.99	6.99	6.99	10.50	12.99	12.99
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### Amiga Special Offers

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Rick Dangerous.....	6.99	6.99	6.99	10.50	N/A	N/A
Robocop.....	6.50	6.50	6.50	11.99	14.99	18.99
Rocket Ranger.....	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15.99	N/A
Rock n Roll.....	7.50	7.99	7.99	11.50	14.99	14.99
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Running Man.....	6.99	6.99	6.99	10.50	15.99	15.99
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Silkworm.....	6.99	6.99	6.99	N/A	12.99	12.99
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Film Runner	1
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Trivial Pursuits	5
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Vigilante	7.50	8.50	8.50	10.50	13.99	11.99
Voyager	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.99	14.99
WEC Le Mans	6.50	6.50	6.50	9.99	11.99	14.99
War in Middle Earth	6.99	6.99	6.99	12.99	12.99	12.99
Weird Dreams	N/A	6.99	N/A	15.99	15.99	15.99
Xenon II - Megablast	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.99	11.99
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# WIN A HAND-HELD GAME BOY OR DELUXE NES CONSOLE, COURTESY OF NINTENDO



## TEN NINTENDO FACTS

- 1 Nintendo of America has approximately 90% share of the US home video game market.
- 2 A US team of more than 80 game counselors are on hand to answer 50000 calls per week from Nintendo gamers seeking game tips and strategies.
- 3 9.1 million *Super Mario Bros.* game cartridges have been sold in the US since 1987, 3 million *The Legend of Zelda* game cartridges have been sold in the US since 1987, and 3.5 million *Super Mario Bros. II* game cartridges have been sold in the US since autumn 1988.
- 4 Nintendo celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1989.
- 5 Japanese consumers have purchased nearly 14 million Nintendo hardware units and 145 million software units, earning Nintendo more than 90% market share and greater than 35% penetration of Japanese households.
- 6 Nintendo was the first video game manufacturer to offer software with a programmability function and lithium-powered memory.
- 7 25% of all US females between the ages of 12 and 17 play Nintendo games.
- 8 *Nintendo Power*, a bi-monthly paid-subscription magazine, has more than 1.2 million subscribers.
- 9 Hungry US Nintendo fans can tuck into two different fruit-flavoured cereal combinations shaped like favourite Nintendo game characters.
- 10 Every Saturday morning, American kids can tune into a half-hour Nintendo cartoon featuring their favourite Nintendo game characters.

Launched at CES in Chicago last June, the Nintendo Game Boy is a fully portable video game system which uses interchangeable cartridges and offers multi-player action, monochrome LCD display and digital stereo sound. The Game Boy will be officially launched in the UK at the Earl's Court Toy Fair in January.

With each Game Boy you get the superlative Soviet-sourced *Tetris* game, stereo earphones and Video Link – an accessory that allows two or more players to connect their Game Boys and compete tournament-style among themselves.

In addition to *Tetris*, there is a large, and ever increasing, library of Game Boy titles including *Super Mario Land*, *Loderunner* and *Tennis*.

Although a UK price is yet to be set, the average Game Boy US retail price is \$89.95, with \$19.95 per game cartridge.

The Nintendo NES is the most popular video game system in the world, the Deluxe NES includes control deck, two hand-held controllers, ROB (Robot Operated Buddy), Zapper light gun and two game cartridges (*Duck Hunt* and *Super Mario Bros*). As well as a huge range of games titles like *The Legend of Zelda*, *Super Mario Bros II* and *III*, and *Gradius*, Japanese Nintendo researchers have developed an exciting range of peripherals which include Powerpad (an interactive electronic mat which allows the player's body movements to control the on-screen action of the characters), Hands Free (a controller which helps the physically disabled enjoy home video game play with the help of a "sip and puff tube"), and a computerised knitting machine.

## GO FOR IT

Winning a Nintendo Game Boy or Deluxe NES couldn't be simpler, just answer the following questions:

1. When was Nintendo founded?  
(a) 1889 (b) 1967 (c) 1987
2. Which computer, console or coin-op game would you most like to see converted to the Nintendo Game Boy? Why?
3. Finally, tell us which are your TWO favourite articles or sections in this month's ACE, and your TWO least favourite sections. Don't worry – there are no "right answers" for this question. We just want to hear your views, and whatever you say will in no way affect the outcome of the competition.

Please write your answers (in BLOCK CAPITALS) on the back of a postcard. Don't forget to include your full name, address and telephone number.

Send your completed postcard to:

**ACE NINTENDO COMPETITION,  
Priory Court, 30-32 Farringdon Lane,  
London EC1R 3AU.**

## THE PRIZES

The Nintendo Game Boy will be awarded to the first entry – drawn at random from the entries received prior to the closing date – giving the correct answer to question (1). The Nintendo Deluxe NES will be awarded to the second correct entry.

### THE RULES

- (1) The closing date for entries is 7th January, 1990.
- (2) Employees of EMAP and Nintendo are not eligible for entry.
- (3) The editors decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.



# PREMIER MAIL ORDER

## 8 Bit New Titles

## SEGA SOFTWARE

GAME	SPEC		CBM		AMS	
	CASS	DISC	CASS	DISC	CASS	DISC
Afterburner	6.99	10.99	6.99	10.99	6.99	10.99
Am.Civil War Vol.2				14.99		
Airbourne Ranger	6.99	9.99	9.99	13.99	9.99	13.99
APB	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99
Artic Fox	2.99		2.99		2.99	
Bards Tale 2 or 3				12.99		
Batman Caped Crusader	5.99	9.99	6.25	9.99	6.25	9.99
Battlefront				14.99		
Blood Valley	2.99			2.99		
Carrier Command	9.99	13.99	9.99	13.99	9.99	13.99
Carriers at War				14.99		
Chuck Yeager			7.50	10.99	7.50	10.99
Classic Collections			2.99		2.99	
Crazy Cars 2	6.50			6.50	6.50	9.99
Cricket Master	6.50		6.50		6.50	
Curse of Azure Bands				16.99		
Dragon Ninja	6.50	9.99	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99
Earth Orbit Station				5.99		
Emlyn Hughes FBall	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99
Foot Man 2 Exp Kit	5.50		5.50	7.99	5.50	7.99
Football Director	6.50		6.45		6.45	
Football Manager 1	2.99		2.99		2.99	
Football Manager 2	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99
Forgotten World	6.99		7.50		7.45	
Fun School 2 (6-8)	7.99	9.99	7.99	9.99	7.99	9.99
Fun School2 (Over 8)	7.99	9.99	7.99	9.99	7.99	9.99
Fun School 2 (Under 6)	7.99	9.99	7.99	9.99	7.99	9.99
Game Over	2.99		2.99		2.99	
Game,Set & Match 2	8.99		8.99		8.99	
Garfield Winter	6.00		6.50	9.99	6.50	9.99
Grand Prix Circuit			7.45	10.99		
Gunship	6.99	9.99	9.99	13.99	9.99	13.99
Heroes of the Lance	6.99	10.99	7.45	10.99	7.45	10.99
Hillstar				13.99		
Hostages			6.50	9.99		
Indy Jones Crusade	6.99		8.99	10.99	7.50	10.99
Last Ninja			6.99	9.99		
Last Ninja 2	6.99		6.99	9.99	6.99	10.99
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Mini Office 2			10.99	13.99	9.99	13.99
Mr Heli	6.99		6.99		6.99	
Myth	7.99		7.99		7.99	
New Zealand Story	6.50	9.99	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99
Operation Wolf	6.50	9.99	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99
Passing Shot	6.99		6.99		6.99	
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Red Heat	5.99		7.50		6.50	
Red Storm Rising			9.99	12.99		
Rick Dangerous	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99
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Rock Star	5.99					
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The National	6.99			6.99		
Thunder Birds	8.99	9.99	8.99	9.99	8.99	9.99
Titan	6.50		6.50		6.50	
Tolkien Trilogy	8.99		8.99	13.99	8.99	13.99
Tracksuit Manager	6.50		6.99		6.99	
Tusker	7.99		7.99		7.99	
Twin Turbo V8	2.99			2.99		
Ultimate Golf			9.99	14.99		
Vigilante	6.99		7.50		7.50	
Vincitors (Domark)	6.50	9.99	6.50	9.99	6.50	9.99
War in Middle Earth	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99
WEC Le Mans	5.99	9.99	6.50	9.99	6.25	9.99
World Tour Golf			2.99			
Xenophobe	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99
Xybots	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99
Zak Mcracken				10.99		

GAME	SPEC		CBM		AMS	
	CASS	DISC	CASS	DISC	CASS	DISC
* Operation						
Thunderbolt	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99
* Chase HQ	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99
Cabel	6.50	9.99	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99
* Beach Volley	6.50	9.99	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99
Batman the Movie	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99
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Fighting Soccer	6.99	—	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99
Altered Beast	6.99	—	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99
Dynamite Dux	6.99	—	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99
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* Hard Drivin'	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99
* Cyberball	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99
* Toobin	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99
Strider	6.99	—	7.50	9.99	7.50	9.99
* Rainbow Islands	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99
Ghostbusters 2	6.99	—	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99
Continental Circus	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99
* Double Dragon 2	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99
* Ninja Warriors	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99
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* Dark Force	9.99	—	9.99	12.99	9.99	—
Kick Off	6.99	—	6.99	9.99	—	—
* Golden Shoe	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99	6.99	9.99

### GAME SPEC CBM AMS

## 8 Bit Special Offers

GAME	SPEC		CBM		AMS	
	CASS	DISC	CASS	DISC	CASS	DISC
Ace 2088	3.99		3.99		3.99	
Ankh	—		1.00		—	
Cobra	2.99		2.99		2.99	
Crazy Cars	2.99		2.99		2.99	
Comet Game	1.00		1.00		1.00	
Doomdarks Revenge	2.99		—		—	
Enigma Force	2.99		—		—	
Enduro Racer	2.99		2.99		2.99	
Batman	2.99		—		—	
Gauntlet 1 or 2	2.99		2.99		2.99	
Green Beret	2.99		2.99		2.99	
Gyron	1.00		—		—	
Inc Shrink Sphere	3.99		3.99		6.99	3.99
Konomi Tennis	2.99		—		—	
Match Point	—		2.99		2.99	
Rampage	2.99		2.99		2.99	
Ramb	2.99		2.99		6.99	2.99
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720	2.99		2.99		—	2.99
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Ye Ar Kung Fu	2.99		2.99		—	2.99
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Rack Em	—		2.99		5.99	—
Fase Break	—		2.99		5.99	—
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Return of Jedi	—		3.99		—	3.99
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Send the form off to US Gold before the end of January and your choice of game will plunk through the letter box a few days later. Amiga and ST owners, be warned: Kixx games are 8-bit only. But if US Gold's Moonwalker is on your wants list, stroll

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# COMPO RESULTS

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The following five lucky people are the winners of our **Psygnosis Special!** compo, which we ran in our November Issue. All will be receiving copies of Triad, Blood Money, Never Mind, Infestation, Matrix Marauders, and Stryx, as well as the very classy Psygnosis T-shirt and Roger Dean's Beast T-shirt:

**Mark Fletcher**, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire; **Mark Shaw**, Cannock, Staffs; **B. Whittle**, Consett, Co-Durham; **D. Wooning**, Bleiswijk, Holland; **Bobby Chaggar**, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.

## BOMBS AWAY!

Back in our October issue we ran a competition in conjunction with Activision to celebrate the impending launch of their superb flight simulator, *Bomber*.

The winner who receives (wait for it) a whole £600 of flying lessons, in addition to a copy of the game, is **P. Maskell**, of Watford.

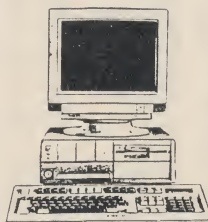
Twenty runners-up, who all receive copies of the game are: **Richard M. Gardner**, Hambleton, Selby; **Graeme Harvey**, Lenzie, Glasgow; **Neill Edwards**, Chichester, W. Sussex; **T. Way**, Christchurch, Dorset; **Peter Scott**, Bedlington, Northumberland;

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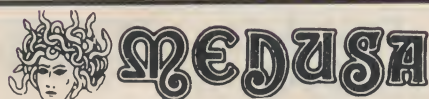
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# PRIZE PUZZLE

Set by Archie Medes

To herald in the 1990's, here's a crossnumber puzzle based on the current year. As you can see, this number has already been entered at 3 across (that's the easy bit). Your task is to find two values, A and B, such that the expressions given will also fit into this grid.

Incidentally, if you try this *before* the new year, it's no use putting '1989' in at 3 across. If you do, there is no solution possible.

The Clues

Across

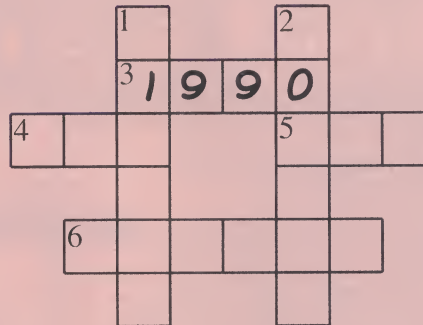
- 3) The current year  
4) B  
5) A  
6) A times B

Down

- 1) A squared  
2) B squared

**A quick note for puzzlers**

We are hoping to increase the number and variety of puzzles appearing in these pages. If you have any comments or ideas that you would like to put forward on Pink Page Puzzles, write to us at: **ACE Magazine, 30-32 Farringdon Lane, London. EC1R 3AU.**



Results

Because of our little hiccup with the November puzzle (which meant printing it again and extending the deadline), there are no results this month.

But, never fear, the results for the previous two puzzles will be printed in the February edition.

Please note that puzzles are now referenced by month and year, not number.

February will also see the return of the much missed ACE Prize Crossword. So all you word addicts out there will soon be able to get your fix again in your favourite Computer Monthly.

## PRIZE PUZZLE JANUARY 1990 ENTRY FORM

Name: .....

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Completed entry forms should be sent to: ACE Jan '90 Prize Puzzle, 30-32 Farringdon Lane, London. EC1R 3AU, by 7/1/90.

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C-64 contacts wanted, write to: Peik Stromsholm, Beach Street 30, Strandgatan 30, SF-VAAG 65120, Finland.

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To win these fabulous Bruce Lee prizes just answer the following question:

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Write the answer on the back of a postcard and give us a gameplaying tip on your favourite computer, console or coin-op game... Have you found a hidden cheat mode or secret level? Perhaps a

poke for peek performance? How about a well tested tactic to tackle tense times?

Don't forget to include your full name, address, telephone number and computer format.

Send your entry to:

**BRUCE LEE LIVES!**  
Pink Page Competition,  
ACE, Priory Court, 30-32 Farringdon Lane,  
London EC1R 3AU.

Closing date for entries is 7th January, 1990. The first correct entry drawn at random from the entries received prior to the closing date will win the videos and a copy of the game. The next 10 entries drawn will each win a copy of the game.

Please note: employees of EMAP, Mindscape and Software Toolworks are not eligible for entry. The editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

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# The BLITTER END

## XMAS SILLY SEASON STARTS HERE!

It's been a strange month for the ACE team... Garry 'Wodge' Williams is off the booze, Rik 'Hitman' Haynes said he couldn't stand another drink either, and Jim 'Who's that girl' Willis hasn't made a move on a girlie all month! How are they going to cope with the Christmas Party Season? And to top it off, Steve 'Could I borrow 20p' Cooke has disappeared into the Bermuda triangle – and he didn't even leave me a Christam present!

### In-love with Lovecraft?

Did you like the illustration of HP Lovecraft in last month's ACE (issue 27, page 37)? If the answer is yes, you'd be pleased to know you can get this classy HP Lovecraft Centenary design on T-Shirt (Sizes: Large and Extra Large £7.95), Limited Edition Print (Only 100 copies, signed and numbered by the artist £3.50) or Signed Edition Print (£2). Please make cheques/PO's payable to D.C. Designs (all UK orders post free). Order from: Dave Carson, Flat 10, Block J, Peabody Estate, Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2EN. DC Designs also does personalised designs, send SAE with your enquiries.

### Atari Lynx Competition

The closing date for the Atari Lynx competition (further details ACE issue 27, page 121) has been extended to 7th January, 1990.

### ZZZ... ZZZ... ZZZ...

And the award for this month's most boring press release goes to... cue loud fits of snor-

### ACE TOP TITLES

#### Laurence

- 1 Interphase • Image Works
- 2 Stormlord • Hewson
- 3 Tetris • Nintendo Gameboy
- 4 Rock 'n' Roll • Rainbow Arts
- 5 Myth • System 3

#### Rik

- 1 Kick Off • Anco
- 2 Tetris • Nintendo Gameboy
- 3 Battle of Britain • Lucasfilm
- 4 Hard Drivin' • Domark
- 5 Battle Squadron • Electronic Zoo

#### Steve

- Leisure Suit Larry 3 • Sierra-on-Line

#### Jim

- Crystal Quest • Mac

#### Eugene

- 1 Tetris • Nintendo Gameboy
- 2 Ghouls 'n' Ghosts • Capcom
- 3 Damocles • Novagen
- 4 Big Run • Jaleco
- 5 X-Multiply • Irem

#### Gary

- 1 Tetris • Nintendo Gameboy
- 2 Kick Off • Anco
- 3 Cloud Master • Sega

ing... Amiga Centre Scotland for its Multiport Board press release. I quote: "From CMI, this two serial, one parallel, and optional SCSI port expansion device comes complete with built-in high-speed serial networking support. It features 2 Serial Ports (DB9 RS-232 and 8 pin mini DIN RS-422), 1 DB25 parallel printer port, optional SCSI hard drive interface, and full CMI, net-AppleTalk compatible hardware. Barry Walsh, development consultant, said 'it dramatically expands the Amiga's I/O capabilities. This opens up so many possibilities for Amiga expansion that we know people have been waiting for'".

Well, I'm sure you agree, it's pretty exciting stuff, eh? But if low level SCSI format supports aren't among your most desired possessions, you can always check out next month's ACE for the latest games news, views, reviews, previews, interviews and other words that don't end in ws. But for now, avior and have a very merry Christmas.

Blit-Blit!

### NEXT MONTH

In the next all action issue of ACE we take an in-depth look at computer footie games (including the greatest football game to date... Anco's Kick Off), interview Oscar-winning graphics wizard John Lasseter, talk to The Twits – Domark's lively bosses, give you music maestros the complete buyers guide to MIDI, life and everything, plus much more...

ACE 29 goes out for sale Thursday 4th January, 1990.

### CRAZY CAPTION COMPETITION

Don't do it Richard, being a millionaire and multimedia personality can't be that bad! Whether or not you gun for Richard Branson, you could get your grubby little mitts on a copy of Virgin/Mastertronic's latest game for your computer. All you have to do is give us a caption for the pic and a games tip for your favourite coin-op, console or computer game. The pic was taken at a recent press party (ACE was there in full force) to launch the Sega Challenge games championships. The winning entry will be chosen by panel of well informed, sensible and extremely unbiased judges – that let's out most of the legal system I here you cry – but fear not because it's a panel of just one, i.e. me! The winner will be the person with either the funniest, most boring or totally insane caption. Send your entries (with attached crisp £5 note!?) to: VIRGIN ON THE RIDICULOUS, Blitter End Competition, ACE, Priority Court, 30-32 Farringdon Lane, London EC1R 3AU. Don't forget the games tip, and include your full name, address and computer model. Entries must reach us by 7th January, 1990.





# You are Captain Kirk!

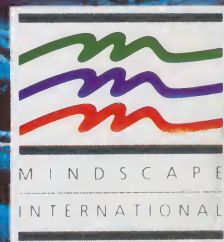
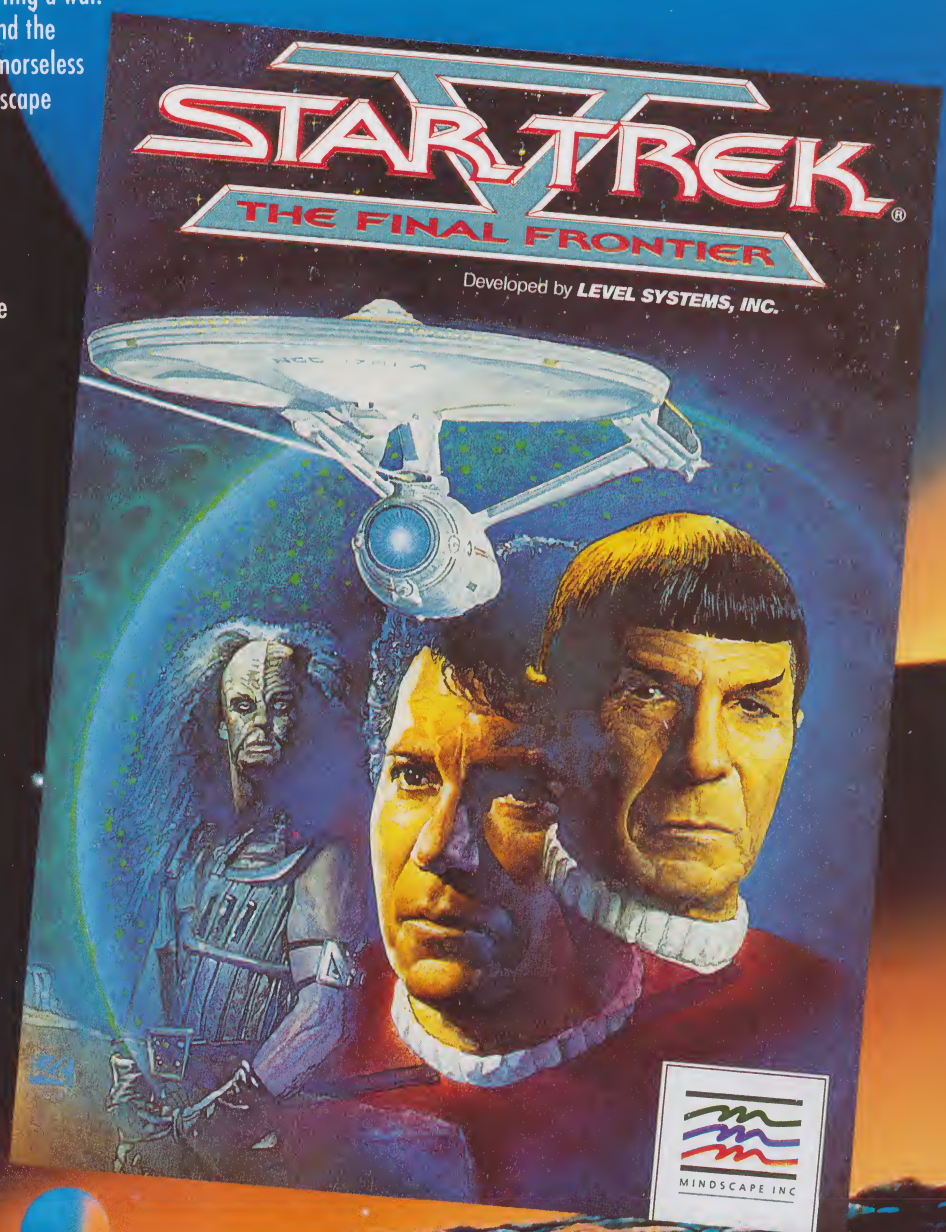
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ADVANCED COMPUTER ENTERTAINMENT 28 JANUARY 1990 DECADENT ISSUE

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